

Policies of Exclusion For Czechs and Slovaks

Democracy Seen at Risk In Bratislava

Prague Law Limits Rights Of Gypsies

By Stephen Kinzer
New York Times Service

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia — When Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany delivered a speech about Europe's future this month, he called for enlargement of the European Union and suggested three candidates: Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic.

Mr. Kohl's list was notable for a conspicuous omission.

Slovakia, which he once cited as a prime candidate, is no longer on his list.

Recent events in Slovakia have led Western governments to complain with unusual force that this country is failing to live up to European standards of democracy.

Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar and his allies have responded by accusing foreign governments of seeking to threaten and intimidate them.

"I'm not sure they're aware of the fact that they're slowly being pushed aside," said Frantisek Sebej, who was chairman of the foreign relations committee in the Czechoslovak Parliament from 1990 until the country split apart at the end of 1992, and who now belongs to a small opposition party in Slovakia.

"We are becoming an authoritarian country run by people with no ideology, just an insatiable hunger for power," he said. "The word fascism doesn't fit, but this is becoming an intolerant, highly centralized nationalist state."

Western diplomats say Mr. Meciar's government is seeking to consolidate its power with undemocratic tactics.

The civil service and the government-run television system, for example, have been purged of people suspected of being insufficiently loyal. Judges who are considered unreliable have found their budgets cut. Members of Parliament from the opposition Democratic Union are being threatened with expulsion on the ground that their election petitions included invalid signatures.

Political loyalty has also become a factor in handing out federal subsidies to local governments. In the capital, Bratislava, many street lights are dark at night. Local officials say the city cannot pay its electric bills because Mr. Meciar is withholding funds to punish voters for choosing an opposition mayor.

Several draft laws now circulating among members of Parliament, all of which would centralize more power in Mr. Meciar's hands, have also caused concern in the West.

One proposal would reduce autonomy at universities, another would make it more difficult for the Constitutional Court to declare laws unconstitutional, a third would restrict the activities of private organizations and a fourth would punish citizens who make negative statements about the country that they cannot prove to be true.

Two opposition figures, Peter Toth, a journalist, and Frantisek Moklosko, See SLOVAKIA, Page 5

By Jane Perlez
New York Times Service

PRAGUE — Nearly three years ago, Veronika Slobodnikova suddenly felt like a foreigner in her own country. A well-thumbed red Czechoslovak identity card, with its faded black-and-white photo, no longer gave her the rights accorded to citizens because the country split in two at the start of 1993.

"I can't go to a doctor and get it paid for by the state like I used to," said Mrs. Slobodnikova, who was born in Slovakia but has lived in Prague since childhood. "I can't apply for a job. They ask you in the first meeting at the job center for your citizenship papers."

Theoretically, she could apply for Czech citizenship. But Mrs. Slobodnikova has found that becoming a citizen all over again is not so easy. A 1993 law says she must renounce her Slovak citizenship and meet stiff new requirements for Czech citizenship that some human rights advocates assert are the most discriminatory in Europe since World War II.

The Czech Republic is viewed in the West as a bastion of tolerance and lofty ideals, a country that has most easily made the transition from communism to democratic values.

But European and U.S. lawmakers have criticized the Czech government for a law that they say appears to have been written with the idea of depriving citizenship to Gypsies, the largest ethnic minority in the Czech Republic.

A Czech human rights group, the Tolerance Foundation, has estimated that at least 20,000 Gypsies, about a tenth of the country's Gypsy population, have been excluded from Czech citizenship since 1993.

In a letter to President Vaclav Havel, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe described the citizenship law as "instituting what may be the largest denaturalization in Europe since the World War II period."

The law has meant that many Gypsies cannot take part in the country's privatization program or reclaim property confiscated by the Communists. Those without citizenship are barred from voting or holding public office and are routinely denied social benefits in this country of 10.5 million people.

Social workers say these restrictions further penalize a largely impoverished group that suffers daily from being refused service at bars and restaurants and prevented from renting apartments.

The discriminatory practices here are particularly serious, says the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, because they set a precedent for other nations contemplating stringent citizenship requirements as a way of excluding people for ethnic or religious reasons.

"Citizenship legislation based on ethnicity is the worst thing happening in Europe and it's being done in the cloak of democracy because international law is

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A group of American soldiers ankle-deep in mud conferring on movements along the Sana River in Bosnia Wednesday.

Phil Gramm's Uphill Fight to Stay Even The Tenacious Texan Chases Dole and the Nomination

By Sam Howe Verhovek
New York Times Service

FLAGSTAFF, Arizona — There is a kind of offbeat charm in the roguish self-deprecation of William Philip Gramm, the Texas senator who wants to be the next president of the United States.

Campaigning in Phoenix recently, Mr. Gramm was introduced to 24-year-old Leah Clark, a dazzling little towhead, by her proud parents. "I had a girlfriend once named Leah," drawled Mr. Gramm, tickling the toddler under the chin. "She dumped me!"

Phil Gramm's style may or may not captivate the voters. But for the most part, Mr. Gramm, who a colleague once said was "charismatically challenged," and whom Texas Monthly magazine described as a man with "the round, wizened face of a snapping turtle," never planned to win the presidency with a charm offensive anyway.

Instead, he has tried to storm his way to the Republican nomination with the twin bludgeons of an unbendingly conservative economic message and an enormous campaign war chest.

Now, though, with the 53-year-old senator having clearly failed to build any air of

inevitability about his own nomination, his campaign emphasizes a less ambitious proposition: that there is nothing inevitable about the nomination of the front-runner, Bob Dole. "We're where we want to be," he insisted in an interview. "I said at the outset of the year that the point was to establish Phil Gramm as the viable conservative alternative to Bob Dole. We have achieved that."

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But several state and national polls suggest that at least three other Republican challengers can lay claim to the mantle of Mr. Dole's chief rival or, perhaps more accurately, that none of them can. Mr. Gramm is stuck in a crowd.

So, rather than dueling with Mr. Dole head-on, the Texas senator rallies off the reasons that he should be taken more seriously than the rest:

• Lamar Alexander, former governor of

Tennessee: "No money, no message."

• Steve Forbes, the multimillionaire: "People are not going to vote for Forbes; he's not plausible."

• Pat Buchanan, the political commentator: "He's a protest vote against Dole. If I convince people that I have a chance of beating Dole, they'll desert Buchanan in droves."

The essence of Mr. Gramm's strategy remains unchanged: finish close enough to Mr. Dole in the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary to establish himself as the prime alternative, then overpower Mr. Dole in a string of more conservative Southern and Western state primaries that follow.

Mr. Gramm dismisses his standing well below Mr. Dole, insisting that they are largely based on name recognition and that a truer reflection of the race is his victories in straw polls of party activists, events on which he has lavished far more money than any other candidate but which he says demonstrate the grass-roots strength and organization of his campaign.

Still, by this point in the campaign, Mr. Gramm had clearly hoped to be spending most of his time building the case against

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Serbs Accused Of Trying to Wreck Peace Over Sarajevo

Request to Postpone City's Reunification Denounced as a Ploy

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — The foreign minister of the Muslim-led Bosnian government accused the Bosnian Serbs on Wednesday of trying to scuttle the Balkan peace plan through delayed reunification of Sarajevo under Muslim rule.

The Serbian leadership "sees the issue of Sarajevo as a way to break the back of the peace agreement," Foreign Minister Muhamed Sacirbey said at his embassy here.

He said Bosnian Serbian leaders were hoping to derail the U.S.-brokered pact that formally ended the war on Dec. 14 "for the simple reason that the road to peace means, for many of them, a one-way ticket out of political office or, more importantly, a one-way ticket to The Hague."

The Hague is the site of the International War Crimes Tribunal, which has charged the Bosnian Serbian military commander, Ratko Mladic, and the civilian leader, Radovan Karadzic, with war crimes.

Warring factions, meanwhile, seemed set to meet the deadline for pulling back from confrontation points, but the peacekeepers' deployment has been disrupted because of flash floods that hit a French Foreign Legion camp.

The White House indicated Wednesday that it would respond positively to a NATO request to install U.S. radar around Sarajevo to replace British and Dutch radar being moved to northwestern Bosnia.

The Washington Post had reported that British General Michael Walker, commander of NATO ground troops, had asked for two radar installations capable of quickly tracing any artillery fire back to the offending muzzle to allow for an immediate response for any attack on allied forces.

"We will meet our obligations under the integrated NATO plan, and they have always talked about counterbattery operation being central in and around Sarajevo," said the White House spokesman, Michael McCurry. "I leave it to the NATO people to talk about the hardware involved."

The White House spokesman denied that sending the radar would lead to mission escalation, with U.S. troops progressively exceeding their mandate without proper planning, as happened in Somalia in 1993.

On Tuesday, Bosnian Serbian leaders appealed to the commander of the NATO-led peace force in Bosnia, U.S. Navy Admiral Leighton Smith, to postpone the scheduled government takeover of Serbian-held districts of Sarajevo. The transition is scheduled to be completed in less than three months.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization rejected the request, which reflected Serbian fears of living under Muslim rule in a suburb of a capital shattered by Serbian shelling during a three-and-a-half-year siege.

In Sarajevo, warring factions seemed set to meet a midnight Wednesday deadline for pulling back from front-line flash-

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A Japan Kingmaker Who Would Be King

By Kevin Sullivan
Washington Post Service

TOKYO — Ichiro Ozawa, for years the backroom kingmaker of Japanese politics, became a likely candidate for prime minister on Wednesday when he was easily elected president of the leading opposition party.

Mr. Ozawa, 53, defeated former Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata by nearly 2 to 1 in the race for the presidency of the New Frontier Party, injecting new energy into a Japanese political world suffering from a lack of direction and leadership.

"To encourage the healthy development of parliamentary democracy and for the stability of Japan in the 21st century, reform is needed now," Mr. Ozawa said at a news conference after his victory.

Mr. Ozawa's victory means that he and Ryutaro Hashimoto, 58, the tough-talking trade negotiator who was elected president of the powerhouse Liberal Democratic Party in August, are now the two most probable candidates to succeed Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama in the next elections.

Those could be held as early as this spring, given the increasing fragility of the left-right ruling coalition grouping the Liberal Democrats, Mr. Murayama's Social Democratic Party and a third party. A surprise prime ministerial candidate could always emerge, but the odds-on favorites now are Mr. Ozawa and Mr. Hashimoto, two of the most controversial politicians in Japanese politics.

Mr. Ozawa is considered brilliant and visionary by his admirers and tyrannical and devious by his critics. While he is widely admired for his intellect, his hard-charging, authoritarian style has made him unpopular in many political circles.

His reputation is similar in many ways to that of Mr. Hashimoto, the prickly trade negotiator who took on the United States in last summer's auto trade talks. His toughness and flamboyance have won Mr. Hashimoto as many critics as supporters.

"I would say Hashimoto and Ozawa are both from the same school," said Robert M. Orr Jr., an American business executive and political observer in Tokyo.

Both men learned their politics in the

Liberal Democrats under heavyweights — former Prime Ministers Kakuei Tanaka and Noboru Takeshita, party bosses who controlled a powerful faction of the Liberal Democrats.

"It's a little like two Republicans running against each other, but one of them has changed parties and is running as a Democrat," Mr. Orr said. "But it sets up a more interesting dynamic than we've seen here in long time."

Mr. Ozawa last year masterminded the merger of nine parties into New Frontier. The party was the big winner last summer in its first try at national elections. It far outdistanced the Liberal Democrats in elections for the upper house of the Diet, or Parliament.

New Frontier has been criticized for its close ties to Soka Gakkai, a lay Buddhist

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Ichiro Ozawa celebrating in Tokyo.

AGENDA

France Conducts 5th Nuclear Test

PARIS (Reuters) — France staged the fifth of its nuclear weapons tests in the South Pacific on Wednesday, a Defense Ministry spokesman said.

The spokesman said the underground blast, equivalent to less than 30 kilotons of conventional explosives, had been detonated at the Mururoa Atoll in French Polynesia at 2130 GMT.

It was the fifth in a series that broke a 1992 moratorium on French nuclear testing. The first took place on Sept. 3, the second on Oct. 2, the third on Oct. 27 and the fourth on Nov. 21.

The United States expressed disappointment after France announced the latest test.

"We're disappointed that France does continue to conduct tests," Julie Reside, a State Department spokeswoman, said

in Washington. "We have supported a temporary ban on all nuclear testing and would like to see other nuclear powers support such a ban as well."

President Jacques Chirac has said that France will probably conduct six tests, two fewer than originally planned.

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Andorra.....10.00 FF	Morocco.....14 Dh
Antilles.....12.50 FF	Qatar.....10.00 Rials
Cameron.....1.600 CFA	Réunion.....2.50 FF
Egypt.....10.00 LE	Saudi Arabia.....10.00 R.
France.....10.00 FF	Senegal.....1.100 CFA
Gabon.....1.100 CFA	Spain.....225 PTAS
Greece.....350 Dr.	Tunisia.....1.250 Din
Ireland.....2.800 Lire	Turkey.....T.L. 60.000
Ivory Coast.....1.250 CFA	U.A.E.....10.00 Dirh
Jordan.....1.250 JD	U.S.A. (Eur.).....\$1.20
Lebanon.....USS 1.80	U.S. M. (Eur.).....\$1.20

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Down	4.34	Up	0.08%
5105.82		132.83	
The Dollar		Yen	
New York	1.4335	1.4305	
West. close			
Pound	1.58	1.56	
Yen	102.83	102.33	
FF	4.8975	4.9082	

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She's Old (120), but She Drives a Very Hard Bargain

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — When André-François Raffray bought Jeanne Calment's apartment 31 years ago — with her still in it — he had every reason to congratulate himself on a good deal.

The agreement was that he would pay her 2,500 francs (currently \$508) a month until she died, on condition that he would inherit the apartment in the pleasant southern town of Arles. Since she was then 90, he gambled that he would not have long to wait.

But Mrs. Calment, aged 120 years and 309 days, has gone on to become the world's oldest living person as far as official records are concerned. Mr. Raffray, a lawyer in Arles, died on Christmas Day at 77.

By final reckoning, he had paid Mrs. Calment at least three times what the apartment was worth.

She tried to console him on her 120th birthday by saying, "We all make mistakes in life."

Despite this cautionary tale, the popularity of this form of home-buying shows no sign of disappearing in France. It is a long-established custom, known as "viager," or "in life."

Maupassant wrote a short story about it and a movie called "Le Viager" appeared in 1971.

Ghoulish though the practice may be, some of the stories of elderly widows cheating death while capitalists pray for them to drop dead could be taken right out of Balzac.

The rough rule is that the older the seller, the higher the price and the monthly "rent" the buyer has to pay while

the occupant is still alive. About 4,500 properties change hands this way every year. But as Mrs. Calment's longevity proves, the practice is far from risk-free. France has so many centenarians — some 5,000 — that the Social Security system recently had to program its computers to recognize people born more than 100 years ago.

Mr. Raffray, a notary accustomed to handling such deals, could not have known this in 1965, when he signed on to take over Mrs. Calment's apartment when, and if, she died and to pay her the monthly fee for the rest of her life. In 1965, only a handful of people made it to 100.

Charles de Gaulle was luckier. Or, perhaps, more astute. He bought his house in Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises from a widow to whom he also agreed to pay a lifelong annuity. She died two years later.

State-Sponsored Violence on Trial / Military Defies President and Courts

Honduras Struggles to Come to Grips With Past

By Larry Rohrer
New York Times Service

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras — During its decade-long "dirty war" against suspected guerrilla sympathizers, the Honduran military kidnapped, tortured and killed dozens of people, confident that the armed forces' enduring grip on power meant that they would never be held responsible.

Now, for the first time, a civilian court has charged 10 military officers with those and other human rights violations in the 1980s. But the commander of the armed forces is openly defying the elected civilian president.

With the commander's backing, some of the indicted officers have gone into hiding, and it is not clear whether they will ever be brought to justice.

The struggle has preoccupied this Central American country of 5.7 million people for months, and threatens to undo a delicate balance of power between the military and the civilian authorities.

Like Argentina, Chile and other Latin American countries, Honduras has discovered just how difficult and dangerous it can be to come to grips with the state-sponsored violence of its recent past.

Until December 1993, the human-rights abuses of the 1980s and the military's role in them were a taboo subject here. But that changed when the government's commissioner for human rights, Leo Valladares Lanza, published "The Facts Speak for Themselves," a voluminous study that documented the forced disappearance and presumed deaths of 184 people.

In the report, Mr. Valladares said that at least 26 clandestine cemeteries were scattered around the country and that 100 or more current or former Honduran military officers might have been involved in the kidnappings. He singled out an elite unit called Battalion 316, organized and trained with the support and advice of the United States and Argentina, for the worst abuses.

Since then, the government's special prosecutor for human-rights violations, Sonia Dubon de Flores, and Judge Roy Medina, leader of a judicial inquiry into abuses by the military, have been trying to bring those responsible to justice.

In July, to the shock of civilians and soldiers alike, the 10 military officers were charged with kidnapping and torturing six leftist college students in 1982. Unlike most of those who disappeared, the students survived.

"This is the first time in Honduras that a civilian court carries out a trial of senior army officers," Judge Medina said at the time. "The judicial process will run its course, and I will soon call these military officers to account."

The Central Intelligence Agency also is slowly and belatedly confronting the consequences of fighting the Cold War in Central America. Throughout the 1980s its ties to the Honduran military were deep.

Senior Honduran military officials, including some who oversaw Battalion 316, went on the CIA payroll, U.S. officials said. They were paid for information and for their help in the Reagan administration's clandestine war against the Sandinista government in Nicaragua and leftist guerrillas in El Salvador.

The CIA's role in the creation of Battalion 316 was substantial, former U.S. and Honduran military and intelligence officials said. General Luis Alonso Discua, commander in chief of the Honduran military for the last five years, received U.S. training and advice before he became the battalion's first commander.



General Luis Alonso Discua, the Honduran military commander, who has defied efforts to prosecute officers for rights abuses.

U.S. officials said the agency instructed the battalion's members in purely nonviolent means of interrogation and how to spy on suspected subversives. But an internal review at the agency may unearth harsher facts.

The director of Central Intelligence, John M. Deutch, who ordered the inquiry, has called the CIA's work in Honduras an example of "how not to do things." He has not decided whether any part of the report, due in January, will be made public.

General Discua has always scoffed at the accusations against him and his troops. "I don't believe there have been violations of human rights in Honduras," he said recently.

"There was a war between two forces. There are many soldiers dead and many civilians who died because of terrorist attacks, bombings and acts of subversive criminals. This, logically, created a problem of extraordinary circumstances, as in Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua."

Nevertheless, the military has responded to the Honduran government inquiry with intimidation and outright disobedience.

In August, just after the first indictments were announced, General Discua sent armed personnel carriers and artillery into the streets of the capital and warned: "The armed forces will adopt actions if there is any problem of partiality in the courts."

But Judge Medina plunged ahead and in October ordered the detention of three of the 10 accused, including Colonel Alexander Hernández Santos, a former operations chief of Battalion 316 who is now inspector general of the national police. All three officers immediately dropped out of sight and remain in hiding.

Instead of ordering his men to surrender to the judicial authorities, General Discua supported their position. "The armed forces do

not trust the present system of justice," he declared. "The accused officers will not submit to the courts while there is no assurance of justice in Honduras."

The national police, which is under General Discua's command, is supposedly searching for the fugitives.

"We are continuing to look for them, but we cannot find them," Danilo Orellana, a police spokesman, told Honduran journalists, whose newspapers have reported that Mr. Hernández has taken refuge on a ranch he owns and that the other officers are hiding on a military base near the capital.

President Carlos Roberto Reina maintains that he is powerless to prevent such defiance. Though nominally in charge of the military, the president recently expressed concern that any edict to hand over the fugitives would be disobeyed and, with that, his prestige diminished.

"Sure, I can order any member of the armed forces to do anything," he said on Dec. 4. "But the problem is that some of them won't turn up. They are out there in hiding somewhere, and the order would remain hanging in the air."

Judge Medina has received death threats and, after two men recently fired on his courthouse, shouting that he should "come out so we can kill him," he reluctantly accepted a bodyguard. A security guard for Mr. Valladares was shot to death.

"The more you investigate, the more is revealed, the more threats there are," said Dr. Ramón Custodio López, director of the Honduran Human Rights Commission. His wife was beaten and had acid thrown in her face during his efforts to help the inquiry.

Mr. Custodio, a psychologist, said four retired sergeants and two informants, all affiliated

with military intelligence, were killed over a two-week period in October. The human rights leader said information given to his group indicated that all six men had been "summarily executed" because "they may know a great deal about what took place in the 1980s."

Government investigators have had only marginally better luck in obtaining cooperation and assistance from the United States. Mr. Valladares first wrote to the U.S. Embassy here in 1993 asking that U.S. government documents about Battalion 316 be declassified; he reiterated his request in July 1995.

In October a State Department spokesman, Nicholas Burns, said in Washington: "We want to provide as much information as possible and as quickly as possible," since "our aim is to promote better respect for human rights and national reconciliation in societies like Honduras."

But in an interview in early December, Mr. Valladares said that so far he had not received any of the promised information.

Honduran judicial authorities have insisted that two former U.S. ambassadors return to testify under oath. John Negroponte, now ambassador to the Philippines, headed the U.S. mission here at the height of the Central American conflicts and was succeeded by Chris Arcos, now an executive at AT&T. But the United States has declined to make either man available, invoking diplomatic immunity.

Coming Up

As economic reforms enrich China's cities, the disparities between the coastal rich and the poor peasants in interior provinces have become so great that some critics are warning of civil war.

An Israeli Pullout Ahead of Schedule
Ramallah Withdrawal Helps Set Stage for VoteBy Barton Gellman
Washington Post Service

JERUSALEM — The last Israeli Army jeep pulled out of Ramallah ahead of schedule on Wednesday, leaving Palestinians in control of nearly all their West Bank population centers and setting the stage for elections Jan. 20.

The pullout took place against the backdrop of negotiations between Israel and Syria that resumed later Wednesday in the United States.

Ramallah was the last of the large cities to be handed over before the vote, under a watershed agreement signed with Israel in September. Given the nature of the task—withdrawal from occupation of a hostile populace and replacement in power by former enemies—the transfer of authority has proceeded with uncanny smoothness.

There were no serious casualties in the two-month operation, although the army had its dignity bruised from time to time. Israeli soldiers had to flee Nablus in haste, and some Palestinians burned a flag they left behind, but in Bethlehem local children handed flowers to the Israelis as they drove off.

Ramallah fell between those poles: the Israelis packed up efficiently and sped away as flag-waving crowds shouted "Soldier go home!" and youths threw a few stones at the trail of dust they left behind.

Yasser Arafat's appointed governor of Ramallah, Mustafa Issa, known better here as Abu Firas, moved swiftly to fill the vacuum, using the first cohort of what will be 1,200 policemen to take possession of Israeli police and military posts.

The new arrangements under which more than a million Palestinians will share the West Bank with the remaining 140,000 Jewish settlers have not been tested much. But it is a notable achievement already that, despite the murder last month of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Israelis and Palestinians have managed, for the first time, to make a negotiated timetable stick.

Aside from the six major cities—Nablus, Qalqilya and Tulkarm in addition to Ram-

lah, Bethlehem and Jericho—the Palestinian self-rule authority has day-to-day control in hundreds of surrounding villages. A seventh city, Jericho, has been in Palestinian hands since May 1994, and most of Hebron is to receive self-rule early next year.

Israel said Wednesday that it would release more than 1,000 Palestinian prisoners next week. Israel is believed to be holding more than 4,000 Palestinian "security prisoners," some of whom have been convicted of violent crimes but many of whom have never been charged with a specific offense.

Ramallah, just north of Jerusalem, has become a political and economic hub for Palestinians since the movement toward self-rule began. The real-estate market is booming; Arab banks are coming in, and several senior figures of Mr. Arafat's authority have made it their home.

With Wednesday's pullout, more than 90 percent of the West Bank's Arab population has thrown off the major features of a 28-year occupation. Israel has agreed, in effect, never to return to the large city centers, but reserves the "overriding right" to enter any of the more than 400 Palestinian villages for security reasons.

Peace Talks Resume

Israel and Syria resumed their land-for-peace negotiations near Quneitra, on Maryland's Eastern Shore, with an unusual air of optimism that the results this time will be positive. The Associated Press reported.

"We hope to be able to facilitate the meeting on a broad range of issues," said Glyn Davies, speaking for the State Department.

At stake are the future of the Golan Heights and the prospect of relations between the two countries that have fought three major wars since Israel's founding in 1948.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres, determined to accelerate peace-making with Israel's Arab neighbors, has signaled President Hafez Assad of Syria that for the right peace terms Syria could recover the border buffer zone in its entirety.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Food Drops in Northern Scotland

LONDON (AP) — Helicopters were dropping emergency food on Wednesday to remote towns in northern Scotland, which has been hit by the worst snow storms on record.

All roads remained blocked on the Shetland Islands, where the local authority declared an emergency on Tuesday. Heavy snow and freezing fog also blanketed parts of northern England and Northern Ireland.

Rains and Snow Cause Havoc in Spain

MADRID (AP) — Heavy rains, snow and winds up to 90 kilometers an hour have caused at least four deaths in three days while floods have closed highways and slowed traffic throughout much of the country, authorities said Wednesday.

Rains are being blamed for fallen trees, cut electricity lines and overflowing rivers in central and northern regions that have flooded farmland and city streets.

After more than a week of rains, travel advisories continued for principal highways and smaller roads. Heavy fog and rains hampered port traffic in coastal cities. Towns near rivers around the south-central city of Cáceres were put on alert for further flooding, according to meteorology officials.

Tourism in Indonesia in 1995 will total 4.3 million people, up from 4.01 million a year earlier, the minister for tourism, post and telecommunications, Joop Ave, said.

Troubled by pigeons that get sucked into aircraft engines, the Taiwan government said it had barred the raising of the birds near airports. The Civil Aeronautics Administration said pigeons could not be kept within a radius about five kilometers from the ends of airport runways.

Such facts embitter residents of towns such as Oloibiri, a community 60 miles west of Port Harcourt where oil was first discovered in Nigeria. A sign proclaims the river-side town as "the goose that laid the golden egg," but many residents, blaming Shell and the government, contend that the egg proved to be rotten.

Fear and Squalor in the Niger Delta Amid Vast Riches of Oil

By Stephen Buckley
Washington Post Service

ULIAKATA, Nigeria — Logs and sticks form a path over the creeks that weave through this tiny village in southern Nigeria. After a quarter-mile, the waters grow black-brown. The surrounding land is stained a similar color. An acrid odor soaks the air: oil.

Shirtless men, drenched in sweat in the hammering mid-afternoon heat of the Niger River delta, haul buckets of oil that eventually will be dumped into two roadside tanks, each with a capacity of hundreds of gallons. One tank is full; the other is halfway there.

When an oil pipeline ruptured last June, villagers say, the spill contaminated five lakes and two creeks, poisoned their fishing ponds and rendered their farmland virtually useless. They say 17 children have died since the accident, which they fear contributed to the deaths.

For all this they blame the Shell Petroleum Development Co. of Nigeria, the dominant oil producer in black Africa's most populous country. For its part, Shell blames the government, and the people remain caught in the middle.

Uliakata, which lies about 35 miles (60 kilometers) northwest of Port Harcourt, is just one of many areas in the southern Niger delta whose inhabitants accuse Shell of wrecking their environment and failing to develop their villages and towns. Despite their mineral wealth, communities in these areas are among Nigeria's poorest. They endure hundreds of oil spills annually and typically lack roads, electricity, running water, schools and medical facilities.

In recent weeks, human rights groups and environmental activists have implored Shell to leave the West African country of 100 million people, whose military regime executed nine political activists last

month, igniting worldwide anger.

The activists executed last month—among them the playwright and poet Ken Saro-Wiwa—were part of the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People, or Mosop, which had launched a worldwide campaign against Shell's policies in Ogoniland, a region of about 500,000 people just east of Port Harcourt.

"Shell has not made community development a top priority, but the problem ultimately is with the government," said an activist with the Civil Liberties Organization in Rivers State, which produces 60 percent of Nigeria's oil. "But the people do not concern themselves with that. They only know that they are the ones suffering."

Oil, discovered in Nigeria in 1956, provides more than 90 percent of the country's export earnings and 80 percent of the government's revenues. Nearly 50 percent of the crude goes to

the United States, by far Nigeria's largest oil customer.

Shell, which produces 50 percent of this nation's oil and began its Nigeria operation in the 1950s, is one of several companies that have a share of the industry. All are part of joint ventures with the government, which holds a stake of 55 to 60 percent in each partnership.

Shell's troubles began in 1990, when Mosop was born. Led by Mr. Saro-Wiwa, the group embarked on an international campaign to draw attention to the people in the 82 communities that make up Ogoniland. Mosop sought \$10 billion in reparations from Shell.

From 1985 to 1993, the year Shell ceased operations in Ogoniland, that region suffered at least 111 oil spills. Pollution blighted farmland, forcing landowners to grow food in tiny plots. Shell asserts that 77 of the Ogoni spills resulted from sabotage and says the shrinkage in farmland is a result of rapid

population growth. Company officials add that they have drawn up plans to improve agriculture, schools and roads and have begun a scholarship program for Ogoni students.

Nigerian government officials say Ogoniland's problems are common throughout Nigeria and the Niger delta, home to some 6 million people.

They deny that the government has neglected oil-producing areas because those communities, composed of small ethnic groups, historically have held little political power.

But they do admit neglect. "We are trying to redress the basic services that these communities have been lacking," said Colonel Dauda Musa Komo, administrator of Rivers State, adding that his state has just launched a long-term program of 240 public-works projects.

Hostility between oil-producing areas and Nigeria's leaders first bubbled up more than two decades ago when the

government deemed that landowners in those regions had no ownership rights to crude found on their property.

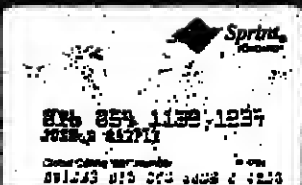
Until the early 1980s, residents in those areas received virtually no proceeds from Nigeria's oil revenue. In 1982 the government set the compensation rate at 1.5 percent for oil-producing communities, a figure that has since reached 13 percent.

The government keeps about 75 percent of the revenues that flow from the 2 million barrels of oil produced daily in Nigeria. A barrel of oil currently sells for about \$17; the government receives \$12.

Such facts embitter residents of towns such as Oloibiri, a community 60 miles west of Port Harcourt where oil was first discovered in Nigeria.

A sign proclaims the river-side town as "the goose that laid the golden egg," but many residents, blaming Shell and the government, contend that the egg proved to be rotten.

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Australia (New)	1-800-531-110	France	205-1774	Monaco	004-55-577	Spain	024-000-0000
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THE AMERICAS

Brazil's Tenacious Peasants Win a Key Round in Their Fight for Land

By Gabriel Escobar
Washington Post Service

CARUARU, Brazil — Across from the neat path that leads to the Normandy estate's imposing manor lies a chaotic squatter campground whose untidy tents, which pass for homes, are made of twigs and twine, plastic and paper. Yet the camp gives the impression of permanence, since the squatters have been here for three years and have no intention of leaving. There is a reason for their persistence.

This camp is a home, but above all it is a political statement — a powerful one these days here in the northeastern state of Pernambuco and throughout Brazil — and the appearance of permanence is crucial to the struggle.

Throughout Brazil this year, in 90 or so settlements like this, thousands of peasants organized by the 15-year-old Landless Worker Movement have been turned into an indomitable army of occupation.

Armed with picks and shovels

and marshaled by the media-savvy national organization, these ragtag squadrons have fought off violent attempts at evictions, suffered and inflicted casualties and in the process have made land reform a surprising national priority in a country in which 1 percent of the population owns 45 percent of the privately held land.

In his tent, where a yellow drinking cup and other homey touches hang from the ribs of twigs that hold the thing together, 74-year-old Arlindo Francisco Versosa has constructed a bed that could well serve as a metaphor for the suddenly influential Landless Worker Movement.

Like the remarkably solid bed, which is made of thin rope, slender branches and a few stubby limbs, the movement itself draws its strength from assembling the weakest and most plentiful element of rural Brazil, the landless peasant.

That simple formula is about to convert Mr. Versosa, a descendant of slaves, from foot soldier in the

movement into unlikely conqueror. Any day now, Mr. Versosa and the other squatters will receive legal right to the land they invaded three years ago, a promise made by none other than Brazil's president, Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

Such victories mark a significant development in Latin America's often quixotic quest for agrarian reform, a pursuit that has occupied the left in Brazil since the mid-1800s and has been, at different degrees and at different times, at the core of revolutionary movements throughout the continent, most recently in the Mexican state of Chiapas.

Until this year, the struggle for land reform in Pernambuco, as in the rest of Brazil, had been uphill, with legal and legislative setbacks obscuring the few victories. But this year, the Landless Worker Movement dramatically increased its activism across Brazil, aggressively occupying more land and, for the first time since the early 1960s, forcing the issue onto the national agenda.

Although other important factors

are at work here, including a more favorable policy on land reform on the part of Cardoso, many agree that the catalyst for the transformation has been the movement's intractable policy of occupation.

The result, according to members of the movement, politicians and even organizations representing Brazil's powerful landowners, is the emergence of the first powerful rural voice since the rebellious Peasant Leagues of the 1950s. This voice is that of a grassroots movement that has forced a shift in the country's policy on the distribution of land and is now setting its sights on other changes.

Already, some leaders of the movement, citing their growing political muscle and the support their cause now receives in national opinion polls, predict they will have a major impact on municipal elections, especially in a few areas where squatters now form the majority of the population.

Landowners and their allies, meanwhile, say the movement's as-

cent has in effect rewarded lawlessness by awarding land to squatters.

The peasant movement's aggressive tactics have produced some of the most serious outbreaks of rural violence in years, including one clash in the far-western state of Rondonia that left 11 peasants dead and hundreds injured.

But instead of tempering the activism, these clashes have energized the movement, brought it media attention and produced a new wave of recruits. Leaders who a year ago would have been content if the government met its land goals are now confidently demanding more.

"We are not going to work for the goals of the government," said Jaime Amorim, the movement's state coordinator for Pernambuco and a member of the national directorate. "We are going to work for a big social movement, and beyond agrarian reform we are going to push for other reforms."

Such bold talk reflects how far the movement has come. The number of squatters has risen this year

by almost 25 percent across Brazil, this during a period in which the government, responding to the social and political pressure imposed by the movement's activism, has made some significant strides.

Mr. Cardoso has promised to award land to 280,000 families before 1998, and despite a slow start, officials at the land reform office in Brasilia, the capital, say the target of 40,000 families this year will be met.

Although the movement questions that figure, even if fewer families were settled it is still significant, considering that land has been distributed to an average of 9,000 families a year since 1980.

Several important economic, social and political factors have helped the peasant movement. Brazil's agriculture is in crisis, the conversion to a market-oriented economy has dramatically increased unemployment this year, and the migration is now urban to rural as workers return to the country for a life of subsistence. The

landless movement has capitalized on all of this, weaving together a potent political argument that it says has 4 million Brazilian landless families as adherents.

The losers, for now, are people like Andre Tavares, whose family is contesting the Brazilian government's expropriation of the \$2 million Normandie estate, where Mr. Versosa and about 90 families are waiting for plots.

Mr. Tavares questioned the motives of both state and church and wondered why neither was offering its own huge holdings to land reform. This defeated landowner's plaintive call for justice — in a state where the sugar barons' dominion over five centuries has left a bitter legacy — is perhaps the most powerful sign of changing times.

"Here people are now in favor of land reform. My family agrees," Mr. Tavares said, acknowledging what for many was unthinkable in the 1980s. "But it has to be done according to the law, not by invading. We are the victims here."

Mexican Speed Pours Into U.S.

Flood of Cheap Drug Displaces Crack

By Sam Dillon
New York Times Service

MEXICO CITY — Like hundreds of other brash young Mexican narcotics wholesalers working the California market, Jesus Amezcua did well in cocaine, well enough to shuttle between Tijuana suppliers and his Los Angeles clients in a \$50,000 BMW. Then in 1993 the Americans brought a federal indictment against him.

But Mr. Amezcua evaded arrest and adopted a shrewd business strategy that American and Mexican officials say has carried him to the front ranks of Mexican traffickers. Retreating to safety south of the border, Mr. Amezcua shifted from cocaine to a narcotic then surging in popularity across the American West, and now sweeping east: methamphetamine, or speed.

Mr. Amezcua got into speed

at just the right moment. As lawmakers in the United States were clamping down on the "precursor" chemicals used to make methamphetamine, he and his brothers started importing vast quantities of them to Mexico from the Middle East and Asia. He began cooking up methamphetamine in laboratories throughout the Sierra Madre in Mexico and peddling it in the United States through his cocaine sales force.

Because Amezcua's business boomed, other traffickers imitated him. Elbowing aside the American outlaw motorcycle gangs who once dominated production and trafficking, the Mexican drug mafias have flooded the Western United States in recent years with methamphetamine.

The result is a new narcotics epidemic, with cheap speed displacing crack in many Western

cities. The average price nationally for a gram of methamphetamine has dropped by 20 percent over three years, to as low as \$40 from \$50.

The administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Thomas A. Constantine, told Congress recently: "The Mexican traffickers who flooded the U.S. with marijuana and heroin in the 1970s and 1980s and cocaine in the 1990s threaten to overwhelm us with methamphetamine now."

Their complete control over methamphetamine production and trafficking has added to the power Mexican traffickers have accumulated in cocaine, marijuana and heroin commerce at a time when the Cali cocaine cartel in Colombia has been badly disrupted. That has strengthened the view among American and Mexican anti-drug officials that power in the hemispheric drug trade is shifting from Colombia to Mexico.

"We believe that the major drug gangs operating out of Mexico pose the largest threat currently," Mr. Constantine said.

Methamphetamine, which engulfs those who snort or inject it with temporary energy and euphoria, has been in use in the United States since the mid-1960s. But now, with production soaring in Mexican-run labs south and north of the border, abuse has spread widely as prices have plunged.

Although this year the Mexican police seized five tons of methamphetamine, one of methamphetamine's main ingredients, trade in precursor chemicals has not been outlawed. But this month, the Mexican attorney general, Antonio Lozano, proposed a bill that would for the first time impose tough sentences — up to 15 years in jail — for traffic in precursors.



DRUGS UP IN SMOKE — Peruvian police carrying bags of coca paste to be incinerated at a site near Lima. A record 30 metric tons were destroyed this year.

Budget Wrangling Shifts Into Low Gear

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Their brief holiday break over, congressional leaders and the Clinton administration were slowly reviving talks Wednesday to end a partial government shutdown.

Congressional and White House aides met without their bosses, a gradual start for negotiations that should involve top lawmakers and President Bill Clinton on Friday.

Senator Phil Gramm, Republican of Texas, called on his colleagues to "stand their ground as the budget negotiations resume."

"Senators have something to learn from the determination to stick with principles that has characterized our Republican colleagues in the House," Mr. Gramm, who was campaigning in the Midwest for his party's presidential nomination, said in a statement.

The talks among lower-level aides will do little to alleviate the anxiety of federal workers, whose paychecks will be smaller this week; of tourists, whose plans were changed with the closure of national parks and monuments; and of travelers who desperately need passports.

Sensitive to criticism that the talks are moving too slowly, the White House press secretary, Michael McCurry, said Wednesday: "It is an urgent situation, but the differences that exist between the two sides are very deep, very fundamental."

Some people, he said, "think it's all rhetoric, but it's not." Mr. McCurry said the president would meet briefly Wednesday with the budget director, Alice Rivlin, whose staff members would see congressional aides later in the day.

Mr. Clinton's chief of staff, Leon E. Panetta, was still on vacation in California and would not get involved in the talks before late Thursday.

Representative Bill Archer, the Texas Republican who is chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, also tried to turn up the pressure. He said Tuesday that the Clinton administration might be violating the Constitution by juggling the books to permit federal borrowing without congressional approval.

When the Senate left for a holiday recess on Friday that in other years would have lasted through much of December, the chamber passed legislation in return 280,000 furloughed workers to their jobs by declaring them essential.

Sponsored by the majority leader, Bob Dole, the measure, if approved by the House and signed by Mr. Clinton, would last through Feb. 1.

But workers would be paid only after money was approved.

The measure's fate was uncertain in the House, where Republican freshmen have promised to continue the partial closure until the White House accepts a seven-year balanced budget plan to their liking.

Nicholas Slonimsky, Musicologist, Dies

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Nicolas Slonimsky, a formidably gifted musicologist and lexicographer who also made his mark as a conductor, pianist and composer, died Monday in Los Angeles. He was 101 years old.

Mr. Slonimsky's many reference works, among them "Music Since 1900," "A Lexicon of Musical Invective" and the last several editions of Baker's Biographical Dictionary of Musicians are considered indispensable by musicians, critics and music lovers.

A compendium drawn from his writings, "Nicholas Slonimsky: The First Hundred Years," edited by Richard Kostelanetz, was published last year.

Mr. Slonimsky was no mere

purveyor of facts. He challenged lore and debunked myths that had found their way into biographies and reference works.

Rather than repeat the romantic depiction of a blizzard at Mozart's funeral, he consulted weather bureaus and discovered that the story was untrue.

He was also fascinated by unusual details. Readers in search of basic information might find in his dictionary, for example, that Stravinsky had a toothache the day he completed "Le Sacre du printemps," or that Schoenberg and Rossini had triskaidecaphobia, an irrational fear of the number 13.

He enlivened his dictionary entries with astute, witty and sometimes waspish observations, and in the later editions of

Baker, he introduced some musicians with lavish evaluations.

Where The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians soberly describes Mozart, for example, as "one of the composers who brought the Viennese classical style to its height," Slonimsky's identifying sentence reads: "Supreme Austrian genius of music whose works in every genre are unsurpassed in lyric beauty, rhythmic variety and effortless melodic invention."

He was a vigorous champion of new music all his life. In the 1920s he founded the Chamber Orchestra of Boston, and he gave premieres of "Three Places in New England" in 1931 and Varese's "Ionisation" in 1933. Varese dedicat-

ed the work to him. He also championed Henry Cowell and Carlos Chavez, and conducted Bartok's First Piano Concerto with the composer as soloist.

Phillip Aareeda, 65, one of the foremost experts on antitrust law in the United States and a White House counsel under Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and Gerald R. Ford, died Sunday of leukemia in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Emmanuel Levinas, a philosopher and religious thinker who made ethical responsibility for "the Other" the bedrock of his philosophical analyses, died of heart failure in Paris on Monday, a few days before his 90th birthday.

Gingrich Probe Touches Tax Law

WASHINGTON — The special counsel named last week to investigate the House speaker, Newt Gingrich of Georgia, will be looking at a complicated area of tax law: politicians' involvement with tax-exempt charitable organizations.

In hiring James M. Cole, a former federal prosecutor, the House ethics committee directed him to limit his probe to examining whether Mr. Gingrich violated any federal tax laws — or knew they were being violated — by using tax-deductible contributions to finance a college course he taught.

Mr. Gingrich taught the course, called Renewing American Civilization, at Kennesaw State College in 1993 and the next year at Reinhardt College. Both are in Georgia. The course was funded by the Kennesaw State College Foundation and, at Reinhardt, by the Progress and Freedom Foundation, a group with ties to Mr. Gingrich and some of his closest advisers.

Internal documents show that officials at GOPAC, the Republican political action committee headed by Mr. Gingrich at the time, played a key role in helping organize the course and raising funds for it.

Democrats contend that it was illegal to use tax-deductible funds from the two foundations for what they argue was a partisan political purpose.

They cite documents such as a 1993 fund-raising letter from one of Mr. Gingrich's advisers, Jeffrey A. Eisenach, to a Tobacco Institute official. "The goal of this project is simple: to train, by April 1996, 200,000-plus citizens into a model for replacing the welfare state and reforming our government," Mr. Eisenach wrote.

Mr. Gingrich argues that the fact that some of the money for the course was solicited by Republican activists from Republicans is irrelevant to whether it was properly tax-deductible. In any case, he says, the course was a legitimate educational endeavor.

Using tax-exempt charitable organizations was a helpful device for Mr. Gingrich. Unlike regular political contributions, the donations are tax-deductible, can come from corporations as well as individuals, are not limited in dollar amount and do not have to be reported.

But to enjoy tax-exempt status, the organization must operate "exclusively" for a so-called exempt purpose, such as education, and must not "intervene in" any political campaign, the law states.

The Internal Revenue Service has adopted a fairly broad definition of what constitutes educational activity, saying that a group may advocate "a particular position or viewpoint" as long as it provides a "full and fair exposition of the pertinent facts," not just "unsubstantiated opinion." (WP)

28 File for Mfume's House Seat

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland — In what promises to be a raucous campaign, 28 Democrats have met the filing deadline to run for the seat of Representative Kwesi Mfume, who is resigning to become the head of the NAACP.

Mr. Mfume, a Democrat who ran without serious opposition in his last four re-election bids, will step down in February.

His 7th Congressional District is in Baltimore City and part of Baltimore County.

Mr. Mfume, head of the Congressional Black Caucus, is quitting Congress to become president and chief executive officer of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. (AP)

Quote/Unquote

Deborah Ziska, spokeswoman for the National Gallery, after it found the money to keep open a Johannes Vermeer exhibition despite the shutdown of parts of the federal government by the budget crisis: "We are able to open the Vermeer exhibition, which is a very rare event in the annals of art history. It may never happen again in a lifetime." (AP)

Away From Politics

• The median medical malpractice jury award in the United States jumped 40 percent this year, to \$500,000. The increase from a median award of \$356,000 in 1994 marked a return to 1993's record-setting half million dollar levels. Jury Verdict Research Inc. said in a report. (AP)

• A thousand Astro-Lounger recliner armchairs are being recalled because the space between the chair's seat and leg rest is big enough to trap a child's head, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said. (AP)

• Leaking gas caught fire and blew the roof off a ranch house in North Ridgeville, Ohio, killing a woman and seriously injuring her husband. (AP)

Is It a Vampire? An Alien? Monster Terrorizes Puerto Rico

By Karl Ross
Special to The Washington Post

CANOVANAS, Puerto Rico — A blood-sucking alien predator is ravaging animals throughout the Puerto Rican countryside, or so say this town's mayor and scores of uneasy rural dwellers.

Misael Negron, a 25-year-old college student, is one of 15 Canovanans residents who say they have had a close encounter with the beast, known here as the "chupacabras," or, in its literal English translation, "goat-sucker."

"I was looking off the balcony one night, and I saw it step out of a bright light in the back yard," Mr. Negron said. "It was about three or four feet

tall with skin like that of a dinosaur. It had bright red eyes the size of hen's eggs, long fangs and multicolored spikes down its head and back."

True to its name, the creature attacked the family goat, said Mr. Negron, draining the blood from its neck and disemboweling the animal.

Tales of blood-thirsty monsters have grasped the collective imagination of this U.S. commonwealth in the past. But none have left a trail of carnage as extensive as the chupacabras.

"This is not a joke," said the mayor of Canovanas, Jose R. Soto. "A number of my constituents have lost animals in the past few months. We're taking it very seriously because it's killing animals right now, but people could be next."

The government gave some credence to the chupacabras hysteria recently by launching an investigation of the night attacks. At least part of the reason was concern about its impact on the tourist industry. Puerto Rico is just now rebounding from a drop in tourism, and tourist dollars, caused by water problems last year and an oil spill two winters ago.

The creature earned its name because many of its earliest victims reportedly were goats. But, according to the nearly daily accounts of animal maulings, its diet also includes cattle, chicken, sheep, pigs, dogs and cats, even peacocks.

José Espinosa, public information officer for the State Civil Defense, said that although many here had

mentioned everything from aliens to vampires, he was certain there was a rational, down-to-earth explanation for the recurrent attacks, but he has yet to figure it out.

Carlos Soto, a veterinarian who has examined the remains of a Doberman pinscher and seven rabbits killed by the mystery predator, says he is convinced that something very strange happened to them.

In each case the cause of death were two deep puncture wounds under the right side of the neck," Dr. Soto said. "The wounds extended into the animals' brains, killing them instantly. The wounds were about the diameter of a drinking straw, and three to four inches in length. They weren't compatible with the bite of a

dog, a monkey or any animal I've ever studied."

For Madelyne Tolentino, 31, of Canovanas, the chupacabras is no mystery. She and her mother stared at the chupacabras for three minutes or so one day when it paused on the sidewalk in front of their home.

Ms. Tolentino said the creature was built "like a kangaroo without a tail," with powerful hind legs. She also noted a web-like film hanging beneath its short, pudgy arms.

With her husband and a co-worker at the garage across the street, they tried to tackle it, but it slipped away from them, she said. "After it was over, I said to my mother, 'We'd better not tell anybody about this because they'll think we're crazy.'"

ASIA

China to Name Panel On Colony's Future

New Committee Will Rival Hong Kong's Legislature

By Kevin Murphy
International Herald Tribune

HONG KONG — Largely ignoring Hong Kong's most popular elected politicians, Beijing will name 34 prominent business leaders to a powerful committee that is planning for the British colony's handover on July 1, 1997, according to reports published Wednesday.

The 150-member Preparatory Committee is designed to help implement and advise Beijing on the myriad details of Hong Kong's final transition to Chinese rule.

It will also favor Hong Kong appointees over those from China in keeping with the "One country, two systems" and "Hong Kong people running Hong Kong" slogans that Beijing says guide its intentions toward Hong Kong.

But with Beijing vowing to dismantle the territory's existing Legislative Council in 18 months' time, analysts said the new committee is likely to emerge as a potent rival to Britain's remaining political influence in the colony.

"The real question is how this committee will promote Hong Kong's interests when those interests aren't aligned with China," said Bob Broadfoot, managing director of Political and Economic Risk Consultancy Ltd., as quoted in a Bloomberg Business News report.

According to a report in Hong Kong's Chinese language Ming Pao newspaper, Beijing will name 14 of 60 currently sitting Legislative Council members to a Preparatory Committee that will be nearly two-thirds dominated by Hong Kong appointees.

But none will come from the Hong Kong Democratic Party, led by Martin M. C. Lee, or

aligned groups that have angered Beijing with calls for greater democracy.

Nor will the Preparatory Committee include representatives from business firms still clearly linked to Hong Kong's weakening colonial business and administrative elite.

The composition of the new committee, to be formally announced Thursday in Beijing after approval by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, has featured heavily in local media reports. Governor Chris Patten was criticized this week by Chinese officials for interfering in post-1997 matters through his comments that the local community sought a broader range of representatives than would be included on Thursday's list.

At the same time, a member of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, Tsang Hin-chi, on Tuesday denied reports that the Preparatory Committee's selection had ranked influential Chinese provincial officials who thought they, too, should have been included on the list.

On several occasions the Preliminary Working Committee, which did not include many of the top businessmen likely to be named to the Preparatory Committee Thursday, made policy recommendations to Beijing that jarred local confidence.

The heavy presence of local business leaders on the new committee is seen by some analysts as a counterbalance to the Preliminary Working Committee's prior influence.

While they might not have Hong Kong's political freedoms at heart, the business leaders are likely to resist any moves Beijing might make to weaken the trade and financial center's future strength.



TIME WITH THE BOSS — President Jiang Zemin of China visiting workers at a wool mill in Lanzhou during a tour of Gansu Province.

Captives' Release Fails to Restart Seoul Rice Aid

Reuters

SEOUL — South Korea, brushing aside the release by Pyongyang of five captured seamen, ruled out resuming rice aid to the North on Wednesday unless its neighbor changes its attitude.

"There is no change in our government's position, the deputy unification minister, Song Young Dae, said. "For additional rice assistance, there must be a change in North Korea's attitude toward us."

"The return of the Woosung crew should not be seen as a change in North Korea's basic attitude," he added.

The handover at the border on Tuesday of the five seamen, as well as the remains of three other crew members, was just one prerequisite for additional

aid, Mr. Song said. "The issue of rice aid all depends on North Korea," he added.

The trawler Woosung was seized in May after straying into Northern waters.

Two of its crew members were killed during its capture and one later died of illness.

North Korea is on the brink of famine after floods devastated the summer grain crop.

Seoul shipped 150,000 tons of rice to the North on humanitarian grounds this year, but it suspended the aid program after Pyongyang rebuffed repeated requests to release the Woosung and its crew.

South Korea has since said further deliveries can be made only if North

Korea agrees to broader government-to-government dialogue.

It ignored a United Nations call to maintain the rice flow and asked Japan to follow suit. Tokyo shipped 300,000 tons of a promised consignment of 500,000 tons of rice.

On Tuesday, Seoul's official media suggested that the release may have won Pyongyang more aid.

It quoted a diplomatic source as saying that officials from the United States, South Korea and Japan would meet in Hawaii next month to discuss the issue.

"It's difficult to say that Pyongyang is changing its attitude with the return, a Unification Ministry official said.

"It seems to still want nothing to do with the South Korean government but

do a show for the outside world," the official said.

"It's not enough," said an official at the Foreign Ministry, referring to the crew return.

"If the North really is desperate it should ask for more rice and stop the stalling. They should hold talks with us."

The official confirmed that the meeting in Hawaii would take place, but said it had not yet been decided what issues would be discussed.

The Yonhap news agency reported that the United States would be represented by Winston Lord, the senior American official for East Asia and the Pacific, Japan by Deputy Foreign Minister Shunji Yanai and Seoul by Deputy Foreign Minister Lee Jai Chun.

Mall Owner Sentenced For Disaster In Seoul

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEOUL — A court on Wednesday gave a 10 and a half year prison sentence to the owner of a shopping mall that collapsed, killing 501 people and injuring 900 in the worst civil engineering disaster in South Korean history.

Relatives of the victims had demanded the death penalty for Lee Joon, 73, who was found guilty of negligence in the June 30 accident, when the five-story Sampoong Department Store collapsed with more than 1,500 shoppers and employees inside.

Lee Han Sang, Mr. Lee's 43-year-old son and the president of the mall, was convicted of negligence and bribing government officials. He was sentenced to seven years in prison. The three-judge court also imposed prison terms ranging from eight months to three years and fines of up to \$17,000 on 23 others charged with various irregularities connected to the collapse.

"The defendants deserve stern punishment for bribing relevant officials, thus causing a major disaster," said the senior judge, Lee Kwang Yol.

The store caved during a busy early evening when it was packed with shoppers and employees.

It was one of several man-made disasters that set off public hand-wringing over the human cost of South Korea's breakneck economic growth and drew attention to the sometimes lethal effects of corruption.

Faulty design and poor construction were blamed for the collapse of the store. Witnesses said the roof of the mall had been crumbling all day, but that officials who met to discuss the situation had left after deciding to take no action.

The organization that represents the victims' families repeated its stance that both Lees should be executed and said it would stage rallies to express dissatisfaction.

"We are angry," the families said in a statement. "They deserved the highest punishment possible. They deserved the death sentence."

Under South Korean law, however, the death penalty is not applicable in negligence cases.

Among those convicted were 12 city officials who took bribes in exchange for allowing illegal design changes and construction. Eleven defendants, mostly low-level mall and construction company officials, were given two-year suspended sentences. (AP, Reuters)

BRIEFLY ASIA

China Defends Record On Human Rights

BEIJING — China praised its human rights record Wednesday and attacked Western critics for interfering in its domestic affairs. The official government report, issued by the Chinese cabinet, appeared to be intended to head off criticism of Beijing before the United Nations Human Rights Commission in March. Its publication came two weeks after a Beijing court sentenced China's most uncompromising democratic activist, Wei Jingsheng, to a 14-year prison term.

Like most of the government's justifications of its human rights policies, the 23,000-word report stresses group rights over individual ones. It notes that China has given priority to the people's rights to economic development and political order. (AP)

2 Accused in Philippines Of U.S. Officer's Death

MANILA — Two rebels captured in a government crackdown on leftist guerrillas are suspected in the 1989 killing of a U.S. Army colonel, officials said Wednesday. Colonel James (Nick) Rowe was ambushed on April 21, 1989, as he was being driven to his office in suburban Quezon City. Two others convicted in the killing are serving life prison terms.

India Investigates Breach In Air-Defense System

NEW DELHI — The government has created a top-level intelligence committee to look into gaps in India's air-defense system after a cargo plane dropped a huge cache of weapons, news reports said Wednesday.

Five Latvians and a Briton were being questioned after the suspicious plane was forced to land in Bombay by two Indian jet fighters last Friday.

The police were continuing to search for weapons that were parachuted in crates into

Japanese Reactor Chief Apologizes for Cover-Up

TOKYO — The head of the state-funded operator of Japan's fast-breeder reactor apologized to a parliamentary committee Wednesday for an attempt to cover up the extent of an accident that forced the shutdown of the reactor.

"The employees lacked awareness regarding public information disclosure," Hiroshi Oishi, head of the Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corp., told the House of Representatives' Science and Technology Committee.

The corporation operates Japan's prototype fast-breeder reactor, Monju, in Fukui Prefecture north of Kyoto. Monju was closed down on Dec. 8 after liquid sodium, an explosive substance, leaked in the secondary cooling system.

The accident was compounded by a delay in shutting down the reactor, a delay in alerting the local community and a cover-up of crucial information on what happened.

Plant officials were found to have concealed or tampered with video tapes that showed the extent of the damage. (AFP)

VOICES From Asia

Mahathir bin Mohamad, prime minister of Malaysia, saying that the country's transformation into a developed nation hinges on harmony among ethnic groups: "We cannot stop at just ensuring that only relations between communities are good. We want relations between members of society, be they from the same community or different community, to be closer." (AFP)

Chiang Chung-lin, defense minister of Taiwan, denying reports that Taiwan's military was reviving a long-shelved project to develop medium-range missiles capable of targeting China: "We have no plans to revive the Sky Horse project or to change the short-range Sky Bow II into a medium-range missile. Nor would we develop nuclear weapons." (AFP)

GIs Dispute Responsibility for Japan Rape

Reuters

TOKYO — A U.S. serviceman described by his co-defendants as the ringleader in the alleged rape of a schoolgirl on Wednesday disputed their claims that he bullied them into an attack that has undermined U.S.-Japan relations.

In the sixth session of the trial of the three servicemen, Seaman Marcus Gill implicated Kendrick Ledet and Rodrigo Harp, both Marine privates, in the rape of a 12-year-old girl on Sept. 4. Kyodo news agency reported.

On Tuesday, Private Ledet and Private Harp told Naha District Court that they were forced by the older and stronger Seaman Gill to help abduct the girl. Private

Harp told the court that he was afraid to disobey Seaman Gill.

Seaman Gill, 23, has pleaded guilty to the abduction and rape. Private Harp, 21, and Private Ledet, 20, say they joined in the abduction but did not rape the girl.

Seaman Gill, who said on Tuesday that his two co-defendants "left out the parts that made them look bad," told the court that Private Harp, who first spotted the girl, and Private Ledet were the ones who jumped out of their rented car and grabbed her. Kyodo said.

The case has touched off an outpouring of resentment in Okinawa at the concentration of U.S. military bases on the island.

The three-judge panel is expected to issue a verdict Jan. 19. If convicted on charges of rape causing injury, the three servicemen could receive sentences of three years to life in prison.

In a separate development on Wednesday, lawyers for Private Harp and Seaman Gill sought a change of venue, citing the highly political nature of the case.

The petition said the defendants could not receive a fair hearing in Okinawa and asked for the trial to be moved elsewhere in Japan. The court said the petition was incomplete and asked that it be resubmitted.

Legal experts said chances of a venue change at this advanced stage of the trial were extremely slim.

GRAMM: Though He Is Waging an Uphill Fight, Few Would Count Him Out Altogether

Continued from Page 1

Mr. Dole, not against the lesser-knowns. In fact, by declaring early and raising \$20 million, far more than any other candidate except Mr. Dole (though Steve Forbes is a wild card because he is spending his own money), Mr. Gramm wanted the race to be a two-man duel by now.

But if Mr. Gramm is waging an uphill fight for the nomination, few people count him out altogether. Richard Murray, a professor of political science at the University of Houston who has closely followed Mr. Gramm's political career, said that while "it doesn't seem like he plays well on the presidential stage," Mr. Gramm has a history in Texas of winning races in which people did not take him seriously at first.

In fact, the only race he ever lost — long before he switched from the Democratic to Republican Party — came when he tried, as an obscure 33-year-old professor of economics at Texas A&M University, to

wrest the Democratic nomination for the Senate from a popular incumbent, Lloyd M. Bentsen, in 1976.

"Phil Gramm is just so easily underestimated," Mr. Murray said. "He's smart. He's tough. He's determined. He's resourceful. He's focused."

Mr. Gramm has a history of shrewdly seizing the political advantage. Running behind in a race for the House of Representatives two years later, Mr. Gramm seemed headed for oblivion until the retiring congressman in his district, at a news conference to endorse Mr. Gramm's opponent, falsely implied that Mr. Gramm and his wife, Wendy, had a child out of wedlock. Mr. Gramm masterfully seized on the aspersions, using it to build both voter attention and sympathy, and he narrowly won the race.

And in perhaps the most legendary incident of his career, Mr. Gramm appeared to have violated all political decorum in a 1982 fracas. As a member of the Democratic-controlled Budget Committee in 1982, Mr.

Gramm, according to an account by President Ronald Reagan's budget director, David A. Stockman, provided the Republican White House with crucial secret information about the Democrats' budget strategy.

Mr. Gramm was booted off the committee for his heresy. But rather than atone, he committed apostasy.

He resigned his seat, immediately declaring for the vacancy as a Republican and telling the voters in his district: "I had to choose between representing Tip O'Neill or y'all, and I chose to represent y'all." He won, smashing, and the next year he won the statewide election to the U.S. Senate.

He has survived ethics scrapes ranging from the arguable use of his Senate staff for campaign activities to a controversy over a Dallas savings and loan operator's paying almost half the \$117,000 in building expenses on Mr. Gramm's vacation home on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Mr. Gramm said that the man contracted to do the work and that the money represented a cost overrun.

Mr. Gramm's tenacity is well documented in everything from his political campaigns to his courtship of his second wife, Wendy Lee Gramm, whom he married in 1970 and with whom he has two sons, Marshall and Jeff. Both Mr. Gramm and his wife say her first response to him was: "Yuck!"

That was when Mr. Gramm was on a recruiting trip for Texas A&M, which was ready to offer a job to Miss Lee, herself an economist. "As a single member of the faculty," Mr. Gramm's future wife recalled him telling her, "I'd be very interested in having you come to Texas A&M." The remark, rather than landing Mr. Gramm a sexual-harassment lawsuit, landed him a wife.

Mr. Gramm cites the evident affection of his wife — as well as that of the many long-serving members of his staff and of his

dog, a yellow Labrador named Gus — to counter a recurring description of him as "mean."

"I think that when you say, 'No,' in Washington, it makes you mean," he said, as a topopop airplane passed over the crimson-rock canyons of central Arizona. "But people forget that when you say, 'No,' in Washington, you're making it possible for families to say, 'Yes,' around their kitchen table."

Mr. Gramm's pre-eminent campaign pledge is to balance the federal budget in four years, if he is president, and not to run for re-election if he fails to do so. And in recent weeks — perhaps in response to a memo from his own pollster, Linda DiVall, who warned that the Gramm campaign "offers pain and hard choices, no optimism" — Mr. Gramm has been trying to stress the positive aspects of his plan.

"All we hear from Washington is the sacrifice involved in balancing the federal budget," he said at a construction site in Phoenix. "We don't hear anything about the benefits."

To that end, he produced 27-year-old Ty Brewster, a struggling computer programmer with his wife, Lisa, and two young daughters, Morgan and McKenzie. "This is something we'd like to do if we could just get a little more of our tax dollars back," Mr. Brewster said, gesturing at a house in the making.

Mr. Gramm, projecting that a balanced budget would cut interest rates by two percentage points, rattled off figures about just how much money "average Arizonans" could save on home mortgages or car loans.

To the builder of a master-planned community here in Flagstaff, Mr. Gramm was even more blunt: "I'm gonna make you rich by balancing the federal budget!" he pledged, slapping the man on the back.

Mr. Gramm is often given credit for preaching much the same economic message from the beginning of his career or,

as he often puts it: "I was conservative before conservative was cool."

Drawing a contrast with Mr. Dole, whom he described as "a politician in search of a consensus" and someone who was "chessless" about the real meaning of last fall's election, Mr. Gramm said:

"Party activists know that Senator Dole for 35 years has basically been, in the context of the modern Republican Party, a moderate. His hallmark has been cutting political deals and I think if there's ever been a time where the public is not inclined to go with a deal cutter, it's now."

Then, he quickly added: "Now I know him well. I like Senator Dole. I'm an admirer of his."

Mr. Gramm does have a talent for offering conservative positions in clear, colorful terms. "The social safety net has become a hammock," he says, or: "We must stop building prisons like Holiday Inns."

His chief strategist, Charles Black, said Mr. Gramm's big breakthrough would probably come just after Iowa and New Hampshire, in places like Arizona, whose primary comes one week later.

"Iowa's really Dole's best state in the whole country," Mr. Black said in an interview. "New Hampshire, that's a northeastern, New England state — you've got to expect Dole to win those. Then, the calendar gets much more Gramm-friendly."

The senator agreed: "One clear advantage I've got right now is that the people that are for me are for me. They have been for me when they have read every day that I was losing. They have been for me under the worst of circumstances and they are not going anywhere. And if we begin to win, they're going to get very, very enthusiastic about it. And that's a strength."

EUROPE

French Cult Member Wondered Why He Didn't Die Earlier

By Craig R. Whitney
New York Times Service

PARIS — A 27-year-old man identified by the French authorities as one of 16 people found dead last week after an apparent cult rite had said that he feared for his life after a similar massacre a year ago.

Patrick Vuarnet, one of three sons of a former French Olympic ski champion and ski entrepreneur, Jean Vuarnet, said after the murder-suicide of 53 members of the Order of the Solar Temple in Switzerland and Canada in October 1994 that he and his mother had both been members of the apocalyptic cult.

"I fear for my life," he told the magazine *l'Express* then. "My mother and I are both still wondering why we didn't receive the call."

Mr. Vuarnet disappeared from Geneva, where he lived, 10 days ago. On Saturday, his charred body and those of his mother, Edith; his companion, Ute Verona; and Ms. Verona's 6-year-old daughter, Tania, were

found among 16 corpses laid out radially around the remains of a campfire in the wilderness of the Vercors region of southeastern France.

All the corpses had at least one bullet wound and had been doused with incendiary fluid. Police in Switzerland, where most of the dead cult members lived, have not ruled out mass murder.

Autopsies have found that 14 of the 16 cult members found in the remote forest clearing were killed by rifle shots. Reuters reported, quoting a French prosecutor on Wednesday.

[The prosecutor, Jean-François Lomans, said the 14 were probably killed by two cult members who were police officers, and who appeared to have then killed themselves with their service pistols.]

The two known leaders of the group, its founder, Luc Jouret, a Belgian doctor, and Joseph Di Majo, died more than a year ago. Their remains were recovered among the bodies im-molated in October 1994.

net family is well known in France. The head of the family, Jean Vuarnet, nearly 63, helped found the ski resort of Avoriaz in the French Alps and was also closely associated with the nearby resort of Morzine. He heads a business that licenses the family name to manufacturers of stylish sunglasses and ski equipment.

Mr. Vuarnet said on French television over the weekend that he was aware that his wife and the youngest of his three sons had kept in contact with members of the cult even after its two leaders and 51 of their followers were found burned to death last year.

The French authorities said they would release a list of all of those found dead in the Vercors after the completion of the autopsies, but it is expected to be identical to a list of 16 people associated with the cult whose relatives reported them missing earlier this month.

The service revolvers of two French policemen on that list were found among the charred bodies last week-

One of them, Jean-Pierre Lardanchet, stationed in the French Alps, was missing with his wife and two children, aged 2 and 4. In all, three children's corpses were found last weekend.

French cult experts said that the Order of the Solar Temple mixed elements of Christianity, astrology and medieval legend about the Order of Knights Templar, dissolved in 1312, and speculated that the 13 adults died or were killed as part of a winter solstice ritual: the solstice, which marks the shortest day of the year, occurred Friday.

"These people knew too much and were murdered," speculated Renaud Marhic, a French author who has published a book on the Order of the Solar Temple.

In an interview published in *l'Express* after the massacres last year, Patrick Vuarnet said that he had been introduced to the cult by an astrologer in Geneva, and that he had decided to join after discussions with his mother, described by friends as an emotionally

unstable woman who felt neglected by her husband.

"The theme of the passage from life to death came up again and again," he said then. "Jouret explained that there was nothing to fear — quite the contrary, I began to feel close to sacrifice."

"What I thought was true is false, and I failed to recognize that."

But over the weekend of Dec. 17, authorities believe, he drove his mother, his companion and her child the 150 miles (240 kilometers) from Geneva to the forest above the French village of Saint-Pierre-de-Chérennes for the final passage.

Jacques Guyard, head of a French parliamentary commission on sects that was set up in 1994, said there were 1,300 of them active in France, from Scientology to splinter groups, with 150,000 members.

Mr. Guyard said the commission would propose closer supervision and new laws to make it harder for sects to claim immunity from prosecution for committing crimes.

BRIEFLY EUROPE

Pro-West Turk Parties Seek Pact

ANKARA — Turkey's political parties set about forming a secular alliance Wednesday to block Islamists from taking power after weekend elections, but mutual resentment between the party leaders showed problems loomed.

"I believe there will be a coalition soon — there are no top-level meetings at the moment, but behind-the-scenes work is going on," said an aide to Prime Minister Tansu Ciller. "But I don't think the coalition can last long, and I can foresee new elections in less than two years."

Mrs. Ciller's True Path Party and the rival conservative Motherland Party finished together behind the Islamists in elections Sunday, winning about 40 percent of the vote between them, against a bit more than 21 percent for the Islamist Welfare Party.

Analysts fear a further power vacuum in Turkey, where there has been a stopgap government since Mrs. Ciller's right-left coalition collapsed in September, if conservatives cannot unite. (Reuters)

Kozyrev Sent on Afghan Mission

MOSCOW — Russia's foreign minister, Andrei V. Kozyrev, was still clinging to his job Wednesday after a meeting with President Boris N. Yeltsin. But he was clearly on notice.

Mr. Yeltsin said this fall that he would replace Mr. Kozyrev. The question was when. Many observers expected Mr. Kozyrev to emerge from the meeting Wednesday with his resignation in hand. Instead, he was told to go to Afghanistan and negotiate the freedom of Russian pilots downed there by Islamic fundamentalists. (AP)

Hints of More French Unrest

PARIS — The co-leader of the recent wave of strikes in France is threatening more unrest at the end of January when new tax increases bite into pay slips, according to an interview published Wednesday.

Marc Blondel, the leader of the Workers Force union, told *La Tribune Desaffaires*, a business newspaper, that, "come the end of January, when taxes will hit, there will be an awakening of demands."

He said the union's executive committee would meet Jan. 15 to "see what are the attitudes of our organizations" and to "examine the situation for further actions." Mr. Blondel said the unions would press the government of Prime Minister Alain Juppé to limit parliamentary oversight of the social security system to disbursement of tax revenue and out of revenue from worker and employer contributions. (AP)

Polish Prime Minister Stays On

WARSAW — The Polish prime minister, Jozef Oleksy, who has been accused of spying for Moscow, said Wednesday that he would not suspend his duties until prosecutors reviewed the allegations.

"The tasks and duties of the government are substantial, and it is not time for such gestures," Mr. Oleksy said in a state radio interview, responding to suggestions that he should take a leave of absence.

The espionage allegations against Mr. Oleksy arose last week, just as President Lech Walesa was to hand over the power to Mr. Oleksy's colleague, Alexander Kwasniewski. Mr. Oleksy has rejected the charges as groundless. He acknowledges frequent contacts with Russians, but says the evidence against him was fabricated by Mr. Walesa's supporters. (Reuters)

New Clue in Palme Case Dubious

STOCKHOLM — A gun being examined in connection with the 1986 murder of the Swedish prime minister, Olof Palme, may not even have been in existence at the time of the killing, the police said Wednesday.

Forensic experts were examining the revolver, a Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum, which was handed over to police after an anonymous source gave it to the tabloid *Aftonbladet*. "A technical investigation is under way," a police spokesman said. "It may be that the barrel, or even the whole gun, was made after 1986."

He said the police hoped the *öster*, who has communicated with the police only through *Aftonbladet*, would come forward for proper questioning. (Reuters)

135 Massacred in Raids By Rival Zulu Groups

DURBAN, South Africa — At least 135 people have been killed in political and criminal violence in South Africa's Zulu heartland province since last Friday, the police said Wednesday.

The toll compared with 90 victims of violence in KwaZulu-Natal province over the same period a week ago.

In one of the worst incidents, the police said more than 600 Zulus armed with spears, axes and guns swept through rural villages of Shobashobane in Izingolweni, on the KwaZulu-Natal south coast, burning, killing and looting in a suspected politically motivated attack on Christmas Day.

At least 19 people were killed in the attack on homes of families of African National Congress supporters.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki on Tuesday visited the scene of the massacre outside Port Shepstone, 160 kilometers

(100 miles) south of Durban.

The ANC's spokesman in KwaZulu-Natal blamed the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party for the massacre.

But an Inkatha spokesman, Phillip Powell, denied the allegation, saying Inkatha members had been subjected to a wave of killing in the past three months.

A police spokesman said Shobashobane was quiet Wednesday, and that he expected the toll to rise as more bodies were found in burned houses. "Shobashobane is a ghost town," he said. "That means it is quiet since the attack. I can say that nobody has been arrested. There are units of the South African National Defense Force and the Internal Stability Unit patrolling the area."

A human rights watchdog group, the Network of Independent Monitors, called on Safety and Security Minister Mofemahadi to allow an independent investigation.

Paris Denies Cover-Up On Pilots' Treatment

Reuters

PARIS — France denied Wednesday that it was shielding the Bosnian Serbs after a newspaper said that two French airmen had been told to cover up alleged torture during 104 days as captives in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"We have not accepted any conditions" for the pilots' release, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, Yves Dourtriaux, said.

The weekly *Le Canard Enchaîné* said Tuesday that a French general had ordered the airmen to "say that everything happened according to the Geneva Convention," though, it said, they were badly beaten, poorly fed and subjected to mock executions in which they were choked and their broken legs kicked.

"I don't think it's a way to protect the Serbs," Mr. Dourtriaux said. "Immediately after their release and before their release we said we were not ready to discuss with the Serbs any conditions. We said it then, and we can repeat it now."

Lieutenant José Souvignat and Captain Frédéric Chiffot were freed by the commander of the Bosnian Serbs, General Ratko Mladic, on Dec. 12, eliminating a final stumbling block to the signing of the Bosnian peace accord in Paris two days later.

The paper said Captain Chiffot's nose was broken during beatings and an employee of the hospital where both men were treated for broken limbs continued to hit Captain Chiffot's nose, knocking him unconscious several times. A Defense Ministry spokesman denied the pilots had been told what to say about their captivity but would neither confirm nor deny the paper's account of their treatment.

Captain Chiffot's father, Jean-Louis Chiffot, said in interviews that the article was "very precise."



SNOWBOUND — Boats blanketed with snow Wednesday in the Yorkshire town of Filey. In the Shetland Islands, some roads reopened, but hundreds of people lacked electricity and more snow was forecast for the weekend.

EUROPEAN TOPICS

New Software Harness For Royal Mail's 'Snail'

In Britain, electronic mail and conventional mail may just have found a way to live together. Thanks to a technological crossover promoted by a private on-line company, computer users will be able to send messages to those who do not have computers, for next-day delivery anywhere in Britain.

During a two-month trial, users of software offered by the PhoneLink company will send E-mail messages much as they would have before, reports the Sunday Times. PhoneLink's computers will pass on those destined for conventional delivery — "snail mail," in the Internet jargon — to the Royal Mail's electronic services headquarters in London. There they will be printed out, placed in envelopes and sorted for delivery.

"We think of it as having a postbox on your desk," says Chris Knowles, a PhoneLink spokesman. "And one which happens to be at the center of the Royal Mail's postal services."

In the future, the Royal Mail may also offer custom-designed envelopes and color printing of E-mail documents.

PhoneLink does not have an exclusive arrangement with the Royal Mail, so if the experiment is a success, imitators are bound to follow — taking some of the "snail" out of snail mail.

Around Europe

The 12-mile coastline between Blackhall and Ryhope, in northern England, was known for scenic wooded valleys referred to locally as "dunes" — until the coal mining industry arrived in the last century. The lovely coast of East Durham became the infamous "black beaches," polluted by mine waste. But two years ago, the last deep mine closed. Local, regional and national groups are now raising £10.5 million for a cleanup that will include removal of two huge slag heaps. The East Durham Task Force hopes eventually to reopen six railroad stations that once brought thousands of vacationers to the coast.

It is a most European story: B. D. Cremer was a youth of 14, living in the Dutch city of Groningen, when German soldiers, on their way out of town, entered the family home one dark April day in 1945. When they took the young boy's most prized possession, a stamp collec-

tion, he screamed so loudly that the soldiers threatened to shoot his father. After the war, he painstakingly assembled a new collection, only to have it stolen during a break-in. Incessantly in the family left him without the where-withal to start over. So he turned to the Germans — who else? — for help. In a letter to the daily *Die Welt* of Hamburg, he asked for gifts of stamps to allow him to build a new collection, saying, "Germany has, in the European Union, become our true friend." The response has reportedly been most gratifying.

In the past, some elderly French people left their fortunes to be administered by the village or city government, which each year would confer an award on a local person or couple of unusual merit. The quaint-sounding practice endures, but it has required some updating. In 1992, one Victorine Gilbert left her fortune to provide annual awards to "the person who, at greatest risk to life and limb, has managed to stop a runaway horse in Paris." The City of Paris has combined and modernized such prizes, now recognizing, for example, a person "displaying great courage." Years ago, a certain Mademoiselle Garbiller left her own fortune to award "virginity maidens of the seventh arrondissement." Now there is an award for a "deserving young wife."

International Herald Tribune

SLOVAKIA: Democracy at Risk GYPSIES: Czech Law Makes Citizenship Difficult

Continued from Page 1

deputy chairman of the Christian Democratic party, have recently reported being assaulted on the street by thugs who were not interested in robbing them. Both suspect that the beatings were a form of retribution or warning from elements of the newly invigorated secret police.

Last month, Parliament approved a law requiring the use of the Slovak language in many circumstances. Like many Slovak laws, this one is vague and open to various interpretations. But it has deeply upset leaders of the country's ethnic Hungarians, who constitute about 11 percent of the population.

The Hungarian ambassador, Jeno Boros, said he feared that "bureaucrats at lower levels" would use the law to discriminate. Mr. Boros described several cases that have already come to his attention, including one in which an ethnic Hungarian was not allowed to send a telegram in Hungarian.

"There is an old expression in this part of the world that says that the more languages you know, the better person you are," he said. "Now you hear a new expression: The more languages you know, the worse Slovak you are."

In recent weeks, Western governments have expressed the concern about these developments in a series of blunt messages. The European Union made a formal diplomatic démarche to complain about human rights abuses, and the Unit-

ing States followed with one urging the government to place "greater emphasis on the toleration of diverse opinions."

Soon after, the European Parliament adopted a resolution charging the Slovak government with following "policies which show no respect for democracy, human and minority rights and the rule of law."

The chairman of Slovakia's Parliament, Ivan Gasparovic, who is a close ally of Mr. Meciar, warned that these condemnations were "creating dangerous tension and nervousness in the country."

"A large number of Slovaks are beginning to have serious doubts about the sincerity of Western states' desire to integrate Slovakia into the EU and NATO," Mr. Gasparovic said.

Mr. Gasparovic and Mr. Meciar declined repeated requests for interviews this month, but one leader of the governing party, Dusan Slobodnik, chairman of the parliamentary committee on foreign affairs, agreed to speak briefly.

"In no country in the world is it allowed for people to say publicly that the prime minister is a criminal, without any repercussions," Mr. Slobodnik said. "Meciar was elected by the people, and in our political system that means he has all the power he needs. We have made mistakes, I don't deny it. But we have elections and a free press as in any democratic country. Nothing happens here that is out in accordance with the necessity to defend this country."

Continued from Page 1

fairly weak on this," a UN refugee official said.

Aside from the basic question of human rights, the refugee agency has also expressed concern that the Czech law is encouraging Gypsies, frustrated at the lack of security at home, to flee to Western Europe. Several hundred Gypsies have sought asylum in Germany in the last two years.

There has so far been no action on appeals to the Czechs to change the law and bring it into line with the standards of the

Council of Europe, of which the Czech Republic is a member. Critics say this is partly because Mr. Havel has been unwilling to push to change a law that public opinion surveys show is hugely popular among Czech voters.

Ladislav Zamboj, a social worker with the Tolerance Foundation, said Mr. Havel had told the foundation this year that he was powerless to change what he agreed was an unfair law.

In response to criticism, Czech officials have denied that the law is discriminatory. Zdenek Matejka, a government

citizenship expert, said that medical and unemployment benefits were conditioned on a permanent residence card, and not on citizenship.

In practice, however, social workers say that residence cards are difficult to obtain and that government agencies demand evidence of citizenship before giving benefits.

The Czech Interior Ministry, which oversees citizenship procedures, reports that Czech citizenship has been given to 360,000 Slovaks since 1993. But most of these people are non-Gypsies, social workers say.

Everything Goes To Qatar Sheikh

Martin Bennett, the owner of Charlotte's near the Marble Arch in London, celebrating the sale of the entire contents of his furnishings shop to a sheikh from Qatar who misread the sale sign and offered a half-million dollars for the store's stock. The merchandise will be shipped to Qatar, where the sheikh is the owner of a large shopping complex.



France Is on Top Of Dutch Hit List

Reuters

AMSTERDAM — Dutch antipathy toward their German neighbors is notorious, but a recent poll has shown that they like the French even less.

Many observers thought that bitter memories of World War II occupation and intense rivalry on the soccer field had secured Germany's status as least-favored-neighbor here.

But a poll for *De Volkskrant* newspaper revealed that in fact the French were seen as the most arrogant and least democratic of the Netherlands' nearest European neighbors.

The Belgians were the most popular, closely followed by the British, with the French narrowly edging out the Germans for the title of least-loved.

The Islamist Victory

Misery as Propaganda

Some good-hearted people in the West and some Arab and Islamic sympathizers can regularly be heard calling on the winners of the Gulf War to have a heart of terror against foreigners dissolves against the reality of his continuing murderous victimization of Iraq's children.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

States' Burden

Some of that increase was the result of accounting games and the states' own doing. Because the feds pay a little more than half of Medicaid costs, the states shifted into the Medicaid program all kinds of services they had provided on their own, including some phantom services whose only purpose was to jack up the federal matching grant. But caseloads for the states were rising sharply as well. The Medicaid caseload rose through this period is all that kept the number of uninsured in the country from rising even faster than it did and putting even more pressure on state and local governments and the health care industry to provide so-called uncompensated care, doubt if the budget is cut there will be some of that. But the likelihood is that cuts as large as the Republicans propose can't be absorbed at the state level. The hard choices at the state level will only be intensified: the federal budget problem will be solved at state expense. If the states are already having to choose between increasing tuition at state colleges and providing health care for the poor, what are they going to be doing — particularly those with the greatest problems — to stem the flow of federal funds is sharply cut? Neither the Republicans nor those governors who want the greater flexibility have answered that basic question.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

Neither military repression nor the narrowly based economic boom of the 1980s has slowed Islamic political gains in Turkey. It is not too late to demilitarize the Kurdish conflict and expand social services, but time is running short.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

The point is not simply to engage in a contest of words with the Iraqi dictator. His readiness to countenance mass death and suffering among his people provides the keenest available clues to his thinking about his adversaries. The man who uses the death of Iraqi children as a propaganda display is the same man who, according to the indefatigable UN commission that tracks his weapons-building, has never stopped trying to gain the means to avenge his Gulf War humiliation. Any question of whether he would be ready to use weapons of terror against foreigners dissolves against the reality of his continuing murderous victimization of Iraq's children.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

The argument is that if the states have greater flexibility, they will be able to provide health care for the poor with greater efficiency and at lower cost. No doubt if the budget is cut there will be some of that. But the likelihood is that cuts as large as the Republicans propose can't be absorbed at the state level. The hard choices at the state level will only be intensified: the federal budget problem will be solved at state expense. If the states are already having to choose between increasing tuition at state colleges and providing health care for the poor, what are they going to be doing — particularly at the state level — with the billions of dollars the flow of federal funds is sharply cut? Neither the Republicans nor those governors who want the greater flexibility have answered that basic question.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

Turkish Elections Complicate U.S. Bosnia Strategy

Israeli-Syrian Talks Seek to Blaze a New Path Around Obstacles

This was an offer difficult to refuse. The talks in the United States, which will involve some U.S. mediation, will set the agenda for further discussions and the methods for dealing with the many interlocking issues that a peace treaty between Syria and Israel would entail.

How to Succeed in Business: 10 New Year's Resolutions for China

Nation to be by economic interco

Second, China should abide by economic agreements it has already signed. Continued massive violations of the 1995 intellectual property accord with the United States is likely to lead to retaliation by Washington in 1996. Estimated software sales in China as a percentage of total software sales stand at 98 percent and should at least come down to 50 percent.

It is unclear if the White House ever believed the Turkish option was a real answer to the problems created by the Pentagon's refusal to undertake "arm and train." Turkey was for some a convenient way of promising that somebody else would take care of those problems.

Mr. Assad, the important thing is the ability to credibly say he has "recovered all the territory." For the Israelis, the issue of borders is closely tied to the second problem of the war: Syria will want an arrangement that does not have the Syrians

In Business: 10 M

**alism needs
constrained
economic
dependence.**

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Mr. Dole favors the United States' using its troops to arm and train the Bosnians as their primary task, despite the opposition

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ness to negotiate

New Year's Resolutions

the paper on the paper were something it confirmed what western guesses of Chinese credibility. The paper on arms would be asked for more and quotas would have to be inated so that there could be "trade" by 2020 as agreed by APEC, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, of which China is a member. Beijing also is expected to let banks deal in the Chinese

1920: Pastor Punished

of Bosnia and what follows their exit. Such an understanding could ensure that their political interests, and the U.S. national interest, emerge from Bosnia without unnecessary harm.

Washington Post Writers Group.

As for Israel, it needs to make the best of the multiple-issue negotiation it has offered: the Syrians if this peace, which will require tough compromises, is to be sold to a still skeptical Israeli public.

The writer-director of the

Solutions for China

The writer, a senior fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies and director of Britain's Pacific Asia Program, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Vuccino Romaine Dominique, he was carried off for a mental examination while excited deputies argued whether he had said that he was a son of Julius Caesar, the Emperor Charles or descendant of Louis the Seventeenth. All were agreed on one point, however. The sword and its brandishing appeared to be very real during the brief departure from Parli-

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1895: Healthy Company

PARIS — A society has been formed with the object of propagating and popularizing the methods of the Pasteur Institute in medical treatment. It is entitled the *Société d'Application des Méthodes Pastorienne* and the articles of association were duly signed on Thursday [Dec. 26]. The objects of the society include the acquisition of numbers 22, 24, 26 and 28 of the rue Dutot with the object of erecting there a hospital where inoculation treatment will be made a specialty. The duration of the society is fixed for 99 years and has a capital of 10,000 francs.


1920: Pastor Pummieled

DETROIT—The Reverend Harry G. Miley, pastor of St. Paul's English Evangelical Church, was set upon by a crowd as he left the church yesterday [Dec. 25] with the Communion Cups under his arms and started burrying home.

The crowd mistook him for a thief, and he was sorely beaten before he could reveal his identity.

1945: Assembly Scare

PARIS — The National Constituent Assembly was thoroughly unseated during the course of a heated debate on courtroom reform yesterday [Dec. 27] when a twenty-five-year-old Romanian student leaped from one of the spectator's galleries to the Assembly floor brandishing a saber and shouting that he had come to deliver France. Later identified as Vuccino Romaine Dominique, he was carried off for a mental examination while excited deputies argued whether he had said that he was a son of Julius Caesar, the Emperor Charles or descendant of Louis the Seventeenth. All were agreed on one point, however. The sword and its brandishing appeared to be very real during the brief departure from Parliamentary procedure.



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HEALTH/SCIENCE

IN BRIEF

Studying the Cause of Alzheimer's

WASHINGTON (WP) — Alzheimer's disease may be the price humans pay for the ability of brain cells to recover after they are injured.

William Wallace and colleagues at the National Institute on Aging's Baltimore laboratory and at the Bronx VA Medical Center reported at the American Society for Cell Biology's annual meeting that the "amyloid precursor protein," implicated as a cause of Alzheimer's, may be part of the brain's normal system for restoring function lost when a brain cell is damaged.

A common finding in brains of Alzheimer's victims is clumps of accumulated material called "senile plaques," made up largely of fragments of the protein. It is not clear how — or whether — the plaques cause Alzheimer's but the implication is strong.

Malaria Parasite and Pregnancy

WASHINGTON (WP) — Scientists in Kenya have discovered a form of malaria parasite that specifically infects pregnant women, binding to cells in blood vessels of the placenta. There it can retard growth of the fetus, causing low birth weight and even fetal death. Other forms of the parasite already were known to bind to blood vessels in other parts of the body.

Michael Fried and Patrick Duffy of the U.S. Army Medical Research Unit and the Kenya Medical Research Institute reported that their finding explains a once-puzzling observation. It was known that pregnant women were especially vulnerable to malaria because the immune system is normally suppressed during pregnancy. But the greater risk applied only to first and second pregnancies. Dr. Fried and Dr. Duffy said their finding suggests why. After getting the placenta-binding form of malaria once or twice, the women's immune systems formed antibodies to attack it. By the second or third pregnancy, they were immune.

Hormone Level Linked to Ovarian Cancer

CHICAGO (AP) — A new study links relatively high or low levels of certain hormones to ovarian cancer, raising questions about using hormone therapies to lessen the risk of other illnesses.

"I think we need to really look at what is happening with our own hormones before we jump into trying to manipulate them," said the lead researcher, Dr. Kathy J. Helzlsouer of Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health. The findings, published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, don't suggest that currently available hormone therapies be withdrawn, only that doctors proceed cautiously with new ones.

Dr. Helzlsouer and her colleagues tracked more than 20,000 women in Washington County, Maryland, for 15 years. Thirty-one cases of ovarian cancer developed in women who were not taking hormones when they began the study and gave blood samples in 1974. Their blood was compared with that of 62 cancer-free women. Ovarian cancer was found to be associated with lower levels of gonadotropins, which stimulate the production of eggs. The cancer was also linked to higher levels of androgens, which stimulate sexual drive.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

IN "Tales Out of School," (available for \$12.95 from The Bridge World, 39 West 94th Street, New York, N.Y., 10025, USA.) David Silver is an instructor at the fictional Mohican College. He teaches remedial English in a class called Bridge 101 while contending that bridge building is based on a "close vocabulary and context-determined syntax" and that language skills are enhanced by learning "a semantic subset of the English language."

The hilarious proceedings reach a climax when the author plays against the Devil to determine his afterlife home.

On the diagrammed deal Silver is South, playing three no-trump redoubled with the Devil on his right. North is an overbidder, and the Devil's double suggests that he has knowledge of the hand.

A spade is led to the queen, and Silver has to decide whether or not to hold up. He does so, which is right when East has the heart ace. And he does. It would have been wrong if West had held the heart ace, but that was less likely.

The Devil led his last spade, and West won and played a third round. Unfortunately for Silver, the Devil discarded the heart ace, an appropriately diabolical play, and the declarer was, literally, doomed. There was no way to take more than two heart tricks without conceding the lead to the hand with two spade winners to cash.

That meant a penalty of 400 and a step on the road to hell. To discover the result of the match, you will have to read the book.

NORTH (D)			
♠ 8 8 2			
♥ 7 7 3			
♦ K 8 4			
♣ A J 3			
WEST			
♠ A 10 7 4			
♥ J 8 2			
♦ 8 5 2			
♣ A 10 2			
EAST			
♠ Q 5			
♥ A 4			
♦ J 10 7 3			
♣ Q 8 5 4			
SOUTH			
♠ K J 3			
♥ K 10 6			
♦ A Q 9			
♣ K 8 7			

North and South were vulnerable. The bidding: North Pass East 3NT West Pass 3NT Dbl Redbl Pass West led the spade seven.

Weight Remains a Key Culprit in Heart Disease

By Jane E. Brody
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Losing weight may be more effective than aerobic exercise in helping obese men reduce their risk of heart disease, a study has found.

The study, conducted over nine months among 170 middle-aged and older men, found that a 10 percent reduction in weight was more likely than an exercise program to improve blood-pressure readings, cholesterol levels and the body's ability to process blood sugar, all of which influence coronary risk.

The researchers, led by Dr. Leslie Kitzel at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, concluded that "weight loss is the preferred treatment to improve coronary artery disease

risk factors in overweight middle-aged and older men."

However, in an editorial accompanying a new report in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, Dr. William Hazzard noted that the study was designed to prevent the men who exercised from losing weight. "American sedentary behavior," Dr. Hazzard wrote, is a primary cause of acquired obesity and the coronary risk factors that accompany it. And weight loss without an increase in physical activity is typically doomed, he said, and is "too often the first half of a futile cycle, followed by weight reaccumulation."

A second report in the journal cautioned against ignoring overall obesity as a coronary risk factor. "Lately, concern has been focused on people who accumulate excess weight around the abdomen, the centrally obese, who

face as much as a threefold increase in coronary risk. But a study of more than 2,300 men and women in Manitoba found that "noncentral obesity" is not a benign condition, and in fact may sometimes be as important as central obesity, and sometimes more important, in predicting coronary risk. In the study, both noncentral obesity and central obesity were associated with higher blood pressure and higher cholesterol levels. "Noncentrally obese individuals require continued health education to reduce weight," the researchers, Dr. Kue Young and Dr. Dale Gelsky of the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, concluded.

In most studies, efforts at weight loss have been most likely to produce long-lasting results when pounds were shed as a result of the subjects eating less and exercising more.

A regular program of aerobic ex-

ercise can raise the metabolic rate and thus increase the number of calories used, both during the activity and between exercise sessions. Exercise also helps to relieve emotional stress that prompts many people to overeat.

In the Baltimore study, however, the researchers were trying to isolate the separate effects of weight loss and exercise on reducing coronary risk. Therefore, the men who were assigned to the exercise program were instructed to eat more to maintain their prestudy degree of overweight.

THE study involved healthy men who had no evidence of heart disease, hypertension, diabetes or abnormal cholesterol levels. It compared two highly touted approaches to reducing coronary risk: lowering the men's weight by 10 percent through a diet that cut

their daily intake by 300 to 500 calories, and participation in a three-day-a-week exercise program that raised aerobic capacity by at least 10 percent.

The 44 participants who completed the weight-loss program lost an average of about 20 pounds (9 kilograms) and had significant improvements in blood pressure, cholesterol levels and sugar metabolism.

The 49 men who completed the aerobic exercise program also ended up with lower blood pressure and an improvement in sugar metabolism and cholesterol levels, but the changes were less dramatic than those that resulted from the weight-loss program.

In his editorial, Dr. Hazzard said that those who favored exercise to reduce coronary risk "should not be discouraged by these results." He noted that both weight reduction and exercise lower coronary risk.

Life With Parkinson's Disease

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — When Attorney General Janet Reno announced last month that she had Parkinson's disease, she joined an estimated 500,000 to 1 million Americans with this still-mysterious neurological disorder.

Each year, about 50,000 people in the United States — most of them over 50 — receive a similar diagnosis, based on the presence of symptoms characteristic of the disease and an inability to find any other explanation for them.

Parkinson's disease results from a progressive loss of cells in the brain's motor control center, the substantia nigra. These cells produce a substance called dopamine that transmits nerve messages crucial to normal, fluid movements. Without sufficient dopamine, patients commonly develop tremors, rigid muscles, difficulty in initiating movement, slowness of movement, a stooped posture, a shuffling gait, loss of balance and sometimes a slurring of speech.

Symptoms are usually minimal at first — Reno's current symptom is a tremor in her left hand — but gradually get worse over the years. In addition to physical symptoms, depression afflicts some patients — depression that goes beyond what would be expected

after receiving the bad news of the diagnosis. And one in three of Parkinson's patients will eventually develop Alzheimer's disease, a rate three times that found in the general population of elderly people.

Parkinson's disease is chronic, progressive and incurable. When Reno announced her condition, she expressed confidence in her continued ability to perform her job and, with the aid of medications and following a regimen of self care, to remain vital for many years to come. There are a growing number of drugs and still-experimental surgical treatments to slow the progress of the disease and reverse or at least temper many of its symptoms. But Reno's attitude may very well be her best weapon.

MY aunt, Ruth Tischler, 60, in her upper 80s, has had Parkinson's disease for more than 20 years. The diagnosis did not stop her from traveling abroad, attending cultural events and going on shopping expeditions that would exhaust a healthy person half her age. At 85, though quite deformed by her disease, she gave herself a birthday party attended by friends and family who were envious of her indomitable spirit.

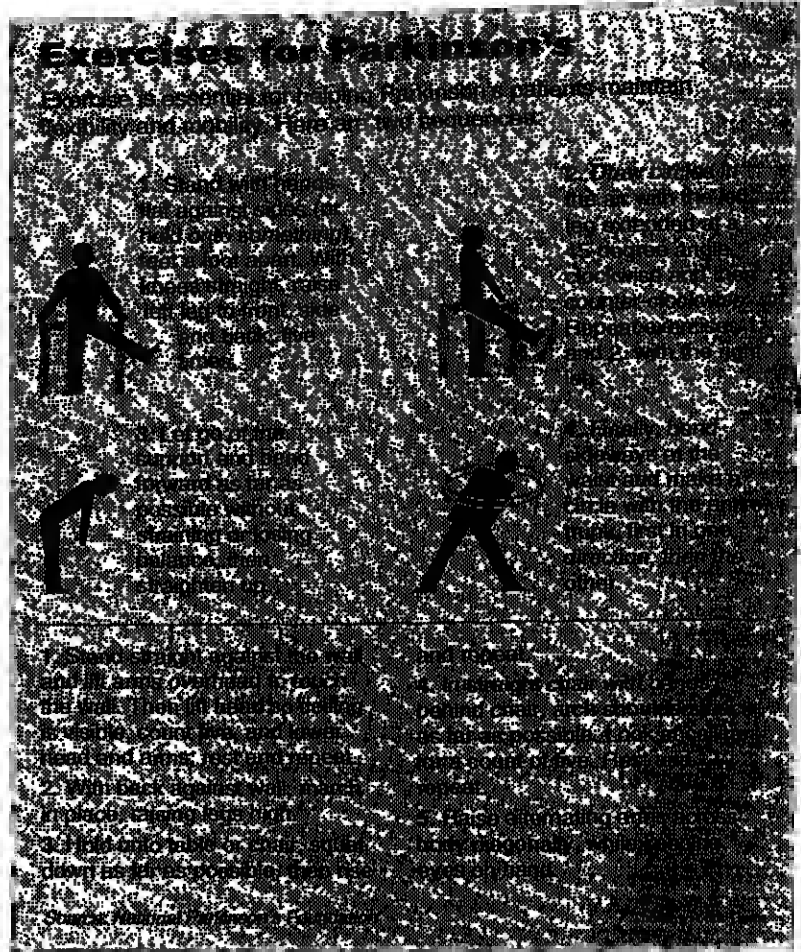
A neighbor and friend in her early

50s whose Parkinson's disease was diagnosed just last summer at first became seriously depressed by the prospect of a premature and progressive loss of her ability to continue her work as a psychotherapist, sculptor and author. But with the help of medication and counseling, she has shed the crippling yolk of depression and returned to her pursuits, although at a less frenetic pace.

The primary treatment for Parkinson's is levodopa, or L-dopa, which is converted to dopamine in the brain. Unfortunately, L-dopa tends to lose effectiveness after three to five years, so its use is often delayed and modifications made to keep it active longer. There are also now several drugs that can suppress different symptoms of Parkinson's and at least one drug, Eldepryl (selegiline), that may slow its progression. Still other drugs are under study. There are indications that high doses of vitamin B may also delay the progress of the disease.

Surgical possibilities include computer-guided stereotactic surgery in the brain to relieve tremor, a burning out of hyperactive neurons in an area of the brain called the pallidum (pallidotomy) and transplants of fetal brain tissue.

Jane E. Brody



An AIDS-Killer Beckons, but Side Effects Abound

By Gina Kolata
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — When AIDS researchers discovered a new natural defense against the human immunodeficiency virus this month, they stumbled on a paradox.

On the one hand, they had found substances secreted by white blood cells that seemed to stop the AIDS virus in its tracks. On the other hand, as a cadre of immunologists could tell them, these substances, called chemokines, are closely linked to a wide variety of serious diseases in which the immune system is the culprit, either causing the disease — as in arthritis or lupus — or in reacting to an infection so strongly that the reaction itself causes serious damage.

In fact, in recent years, drug companies throughout the world have been working furiously to develop drugs to block chemokines. "Chemokines are a very, very hot family of molecules," said Dr. Charles McKay, director of immunology at Leukosite, a biotechnology company in Cambridge, Massachusetts. "Almost every major pharmaceutical company has a program looking at the function of chemokines and trying to block them." Leukosite, in fact, was formed expressly to develop

drugs to block these substances.

The work on the AIDS virus, HIV, reported this month, raised hopes that it might lead to new treatments for HIV infection.

One group of researchers, led by Dr. Robert Gallo, director of the Institute for Human Virology at the University of Maryland, reported that three chemokines, called Rantes, MIP-1alpha, and MIP-1beta, can completely stop HIV in laboratory experiments.

A second group, led by Dr. Reinhard Kurth, president of the Paul Ehrlich Institute in Langen, Germany, working with monkey cells, reported that a different chemokine, called interleukin 16, had the same effect.

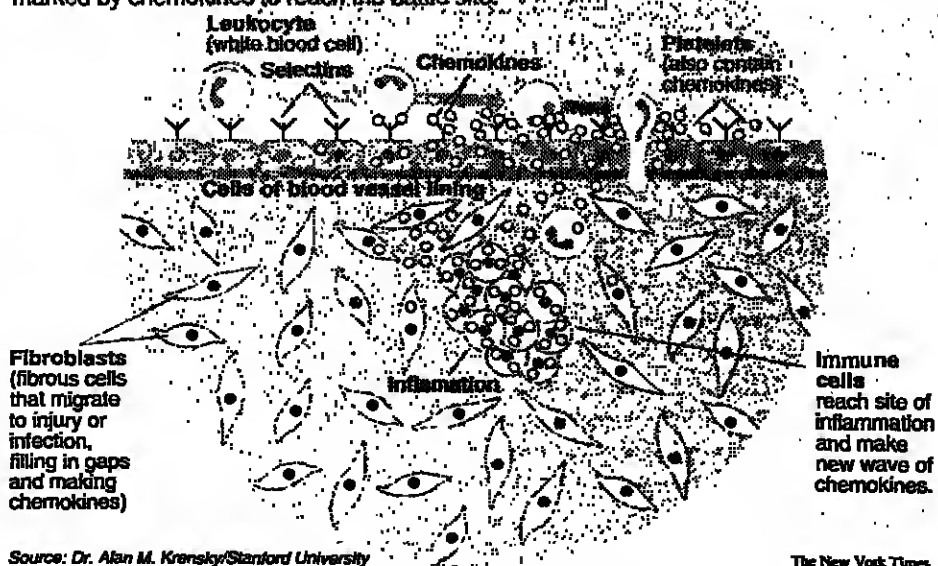
But Dr. Gallo said he had known nothing about chemokines before making his discovery. In essence, said Dr. Joost J. Oppenheim, chief of the laboratory of immunoregulation at the National Cancer Institute in Frederick, Maryland, chemokines "give marching orders to inflammatory cells to go where you need them."

When an inflammation begins, cells release chemokines to call for reinforcements to battle the irritant, which could be anything from a bacteria to a transplanted organ.

Dr. Alan M. Krensky, an immunologist at Stanford University Medical Center, said that

Signposts for Recruits in the Immunity Wars

Substances called chemokines marshal immune cells from the blood and guide them to the site of infection. First, a circulating white blood cell is snagged and slowed to a roll by receptor proteins called selectins. Then chemokines collect at one place on the blood vessel wall and signal the immune cell to adhere and to become abrasive. The traction enables the white cell to push itself through the vessel wall. The cell follows a path marked by chemokines to reach the battle site.



Source: Dr. Alan M. Krensky/Stanford University

The New York Times

the body fight. Immunologists say they are not certain what would happen if someone tried to treat HIV infections by injecting patients with chemokines.

Jerome Groopman, a blood researcher at Harvard Medical School, said he suspected it might be a disaster because chemokines are meant to work locally in the body. If they fight HIV, they do so in the immediate area of an infection. "It's probably a matter of a measured dose of poison," he said.

Dr. Oppenheim said that when he injected chemokines into mice, it cut immune responses. The reason is that the circulating chemokines destroyed the body's ability to notice chemokines released locally. He noted that treating AIDS patients with chemokines "could make them more susceptible to infections."

On the other hand, immunologists said, it might be possible to stimulate white blood cells to step up their own local production of chemokines to fight HIV, rather than to simply swamp the body with injections of chemokines.

Furthermore, they said, the idea that chemokines might actually have antiviral effects is so new that no one can say what would happen if the chemicals were tested as an AIDS treatment.

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BOOKS

PATTON: A Genius for War
By Carlo D'Este. 977 pages. \$35. HarperCollins.

Reviewed by John Prados

FEW American generals, at least of those since the Civil War, have inspired quite as much emotion as General George S. Patton Jr. Alternately viewed as a master of mobile warfare, a martinet, a knight in shining armor, a jealous and narrow man and an exemplar of military efficiency, George Patton triggers a torrent of opinionated comment. Much more so than his peers — Dwight D. Eisenhower, often seen as a diplomat in uniform; Omar Bradley, a low-key commander; or Courtney Hodges, a plodding but competent lieutenant — Patton blazed a trail into the hearts of his countrymen.

Among World War II U.S. Army leaders, probably only Douglas MacArthur is better known. Thus it is perplexing to

realize, upon reading this fine biography by Carlo D'Este, that in fact George Patton the man is poorly understood at best.

The subtext here, that Patton had a genius for war, few would disagree with. A pioneer of new military methods, he helped create the first American tank units in World War I and, in the next war, led key formations in combat in North Africa, Sicily and Northwest Europe. D'Este, author of four works of World War II history, including books on Sicily and the French campaign, is ideally suited to take on the subject of this controversial American general.

Tracing Patton's lineage to ancestors who played military roles as far back as the French and Indian War, D'Este presents an unparalleled portrait of the influences that shaped the man. In particular we discover that Patton was dyslexic: as D'Este puts it, "dyslexics experience a need to justify to themselves and those who have no grasp of the

WHAT THEY'RE READING

• Marie-Antoinette Valois, director of social affairs at the Catholic Institute of Paris, is reading, "Honeymoon" by Patrick Modiano.

"Page after page, I am amazed by the intrigue and mystery." (Charlotte Sector, IHT)



nature of their problem that they are as good or better than ordinary people." Certainly, Patton seemed driven, but previous observers have attributed this to burning ambition. As for military bent, there were numerous tales of forebears, many of them graduates of the Virginia Military Institute, and Civil War veterans, not to mention family friends such as John Singleton Mosby. Patton's aunt read him

Shing's Mexican expedition, World War I and a unit command at Fort Myer, all classic experiences in the army of that day. Patton met and married Beatrice Banning Ayer, the childhood sweetheart he encountered during summer vacations on California's Catalina Island. Beatrice, various Ayer family members, and Beatrice and George's children are major characters in "Patton: A Genius for War." Viewed less sympathetically, but also a character, is Jean Gordon, who had an affair with Patton in the mid-1930s, which she may (or may not) have resumed in Europe during World War II.

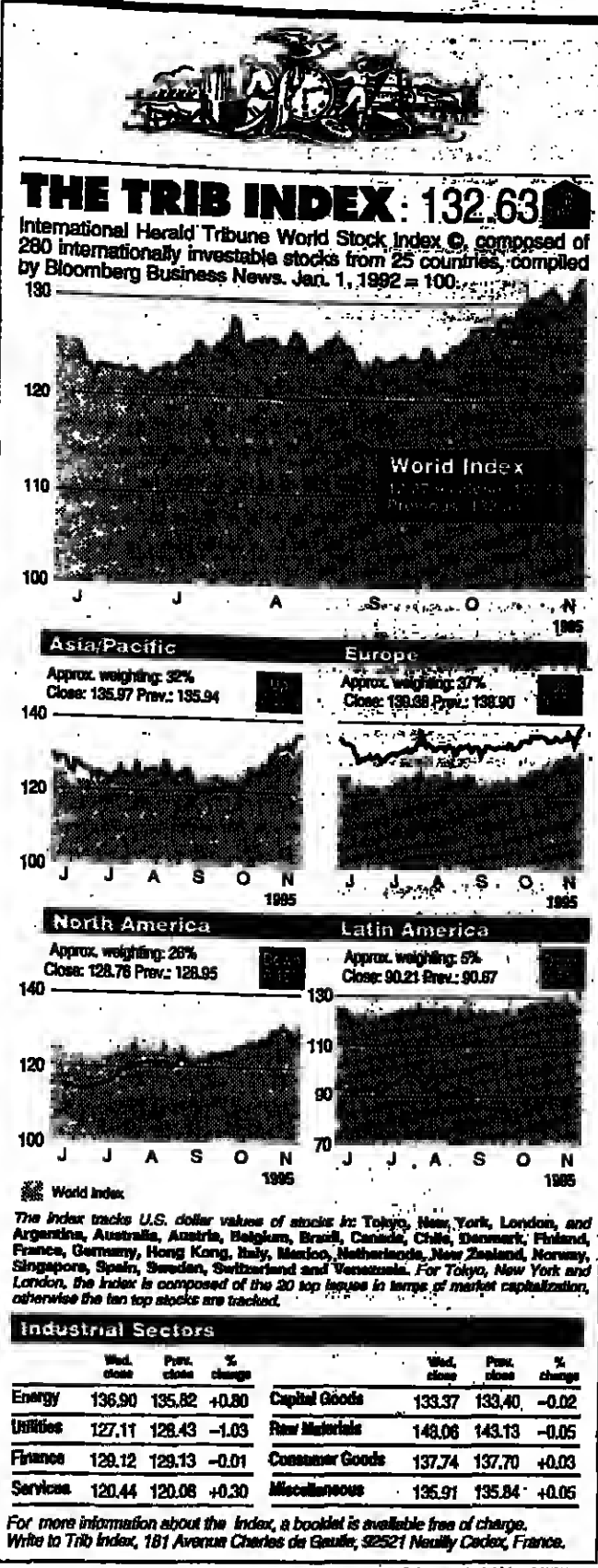
Along with the treatment of Patton the man, more emerges for those who take a jaundiced view of Patton the general. Several incidents that cost Patton dearly, in which he slapped or otherwise harassed soldiers whom he considered shirkers in Sicily or Europe, are well known. But D'Este recounts

other instances of petty rule-making or behavioral extravagance that evoke the Patton seen in "Patton," infamous as the movie Richard Nixon watched repeatedly to steel himself for the invasion of Cambodia. This is unfortunate for D'Este, who opens his biography with the expressed intent to distance Patton from "Patton."

Like the tanks, Carlo D'Este moves on to the Battle of the Bulge. Then come the final days of the war, Patton's encounters with Russians, his time as military governor in Bavaria, and his death in 1945, attended by the faithful Beatrice. Carlo D'Este is faithful in rendering the full spectrum of Patton's proclivities, prejudices and potential. "Patton: A Genius for War" could be tinkered with but can hardly be surpassed.

John Prados, a historian of national security based in Washington, wrote this for *The Washington Post*.

DOLLAR VALUES			
Year	1995	1994	1993
U.S. Dollar	1.00	1.00	1.00
British Pound	0.65	0.65	0.65
Japanese Yen	100.00	100.00	100.00
West German Mark	1.00	1.00	1.00
French Franc	6.55	6.55	6.55
Italian Lira	200.00	200.00	200.00
Spanish Peseta	166.67	166.67	166.67
Swiss Franc	1.33	1.33	1.33
Belgian Franc	20.36	20.36	20.36
Dutch Guilder	3.60	3.60	3.60
Austrian Schilling	13.76	13.76	13.76
Portuguese Escudo	200.48	200.48	200.48
Irish Punt	7.88	7.88	7.88
Greek Drachma	340.75	340.75	340.75
Polish Zloty	4.00	4.00	4.00
Czech Koruna	166.67	166.67	166.67
Slovak Koruna	100.00	100.00	100.00
Hungarian Forint	200.00	200.00	200.00
Czech Republic	166.67	166.67	166.67
Slovak Republic	100.00	100.00	100.00
Hungary	200.00	200.00	200.00
Czech Republic	166.67	166.67	166.67
Slovak Republic	100.00	100.00	100.00
Hungary	200.00	200.00	200.00



Data Show Economic Slowdown In the U.S.

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK—Two reports released Wednesday showed signs of a weakening U.S. economy, but the government shutdown caused by the political dispute over the budget will delay the release of further data.

American consumers turned less optimistic in December, with the consumer confidence index falling to 96.7 from a revised 101.6 in November, the Conference Board reported.

The business research group's widely followed monthly survey on consumer confidence showed that fewer Americans thought the economic environment was good, fewer thought jobs were plentiful, and fewer planned major purchases such as cars or household appliances.

Some analysts said the index was slightly weaker than expected. But the results were not considered truly surprising, as consumer confidence is tied to the labor market, and with job growth slowing and more companies announcing layoffs, consumers are less secure.

Separately, home sales declined 1.7 percent in November, more than expected, to an annual rate of 4.04 million, the National Association of Realtors said.

The decline, the second consecutive fall, suggested that declining mortgage rates were not enough to overcome home buyers' concerns about the slowing economy, analysts said.

Meanwhile, the Conference Board said it expected to release leading indicators for November in January.

"The availability of this important information hinges on a return to work by the relevant government agencies," it said. "We currently anticipate that sufficient data will be available in early January." (Bloomberg, Knight-Ridder, AP)

Bitter Truth of Tsingtao

By Seth Faison
New York Times Service

TSINGTAO, China—Not long ago, Tsingtao Brewery Co. looked unbeatable.

With a high-quality product, a well-established name, a booming beer market and ambitious plans to quadruple production in five years, Tsingtao seemed perfectly positioned to ride China's locomotive-like economic growth.

In 1993, when the government allowed China's top companies to list shares on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, Tsingtao was chosen to go first, and its stock was one of the hottest issues of the year.

But now, Tsingtao is going nowhere. Its profits are sagging, its stock is near an all-time low, and its expansion plans have stalled. Tsingtao managers have been reluctant to explain why the \$190 million they raised in 1993 has not been invested in expansion.

Tsingtao's story straddles a central paradox in China today. In this country's wrenching shift from a planned to a mar-

ket economy, explosive growth has been accompanied by bumbling financial operations mired in a hopelessly inefficient system run by the Communist Party. The entry of Chinese stocks into securities markets in Hong Kong and Shanghai has been a dud.

Unforeseen difficulties are inevitable, of course, when capital markets are being built

Chinese brewer has failed to live up to its potential.

from scratch. But in China, such problems are compounded by a situation that most Western investors have a hard time fathoming: Companies that say they want to make money are still run by Communist Party bureaucrats who care more about meetings and government policy than revenues or profit margins.

Tsingtao's difficulties are especially striking because the opportunity is so great.

China's beer market is now about 118 million barrels annually, roughly 15 times as big as it was in 1980 and growing so fast it has overtaken Germany to become the world's second largest, after the United States.

But Tsingtao, which is not accustomed to entertaining questions from anyone but government officials, is almost completely indifferent to investors and analysts, offering them little information.

Of the 17 China-based companies now listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, only one, Shanghai Petrochemical Co., trades at more than its original listing price. Tsingtao's shares in Hong Kong closed Wednesday at 1.79 Hong Kong dollars (23 cents), down 3 cents, well below the price of 2.80 at which it was offered.

Any analyst can list a number of reasons Chinese stocks are down this year: Many have suffered from Beijing's tight credit policy, others were

See BREW, Page 13

Rise in Output Fuels Hope for Japan Recovery

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO—Japan said Wednesday that its industrial production rose by 1.3 percent in November over October, brightening the nation's economic outlook. Economists had predicted that output would fall by 0.1 percent.

It was the second consecutive monthly rise, said Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry. Output was forecast to rise 0.5 percent in December and another 0.5 percent in January, according to a survey of manufacturers.

The survey prompted the ministry to improve its assessment of manufacturers by saying that industrial production was starting to recover.

Analysts were optimistic about the data. "I think the economy is poised for a relatively strong recovery," said Akio Yoshino, an economist at Credit Suisse in Tokyo.

Economists said growth was likely to be bolstered by capital investment and public-works money from the government's 14.2 trillion yen (\$138 billion) stimulus package announced in September. Some added that electronics and machinery makers would benefit from healthy demand for computers, telecommunications equipment and construction machinery, fueling economic expansion.

Those forces were partially responsible for the production growth posted in November, the ministry said.

Signs of Japanese economic recovery were likely to support the stock market, brokers said. Although the output statistics were released after financial markets had finished trading for the day, investors appeared to be optimistic about the economy. The Nikkei stock average closed above 20,000 for the first time in more than 14 months.

Moreover, some economists cautioned that inventories remained at high levels, having fallen for only the third time in the past 12 months. (Bloomberg, Reuters)

and many brokers said prices had room to grow.

"The rise through 20,000 is a significant achievement in the recent bull run, but we do not need to be too cautious yet," said Haruhiko Kobayashi, deputy general manager at Yamaichi Securities.

The Nikkei average finished 107.04 points higher, or 0.54 percent, at 20,011.76—its highest close since Oct. 13, 1994.

Many brokers said foreign investors would propel the rally further.

"Most foreign investors were on the sidelines today, but buy orders from investment trusts underpinned overall prices," said Tadayasu Hasegawa, general manager at Kokusai Securities.

"Their buy orders convinced other investors that the downside is solid, and bargain-busting in volatile, low-priced issues continued," he added.

"When foreigners resume buying, trade will be revitalized and we can expect further gains from the 20,000 level."

The auto industry was a drag on production in November. That was reflected in the 21 percent drop in vehicle exports announced Wednesday by the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, the 11th consecutive monthly decline.

Japanese carmakers are exporting fewer vehicles because of the strong yen, a slowdown in the U.S. auto market and the shift of production by carmakers offshore.

Ministry officials warned that the government had not declared the economy to be in a state of recovery.

Moreover, some economists cautioned that inventories remained at high levels, having fallen for only the third time in the past 12 months. (Bloomberg, Reuters)

India Identifies Its Export Targets

Reuters

NEW DELHI—India, aiming to meet an annual export target of \$75 billion by the end of the decade, unveiled a short-term export strategy Wednesday focusing on 15 products and 15 destinations.

"In the short run, the focus must be on products and markets where we have competitive strength," the commerce minister, P. Chidambaram, said.

The strategy aims at increasing India's share of world trade to about 1 percent by 2000 from 0.6 percent, Mr. Chidambaram said.

The products are gems and jewelry; ready-made garments; cotton accessories; cotton yarn and other fabrics; marine products; drugs and pharmaceuticals; transport equipment; manufactured metal goods; machinery and instruments; manufactured leather goods; leather footwear; man-made yarn and other fabrics; dyes and intermediate products; plastic and linoleum products; and synthetic fibers.

"Put your money where your market is," Mr. Chidambaram said to exporters and business leaders, referring to the 15 destinations identified as target markets.

They are Bangladesh, Belgium, Britain, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and the United States.

Those 15 markets now take nearly \$20 billion of India's \$26.2 billion of annual exports, the minister said. "Out of that, \$17.1 billion came from these 15 products alone," he said.

If India could increase its share of these products in these markets, exports would grow sharply, he said.

Underlying the importance of the United States as a market for Indian exporters, Mr. Chidambaram said it was a significant market for India in 14 of the 15 products.

"We cannot underplay the importance of the U.S.," he said.

INTERNATIONAL MANAGER

Enron Treads Warily in Africa

By James C. McKinley Jr.
New York Times Service

Beneath the rolling grasslands of southern Mozambique lies a huge reserve of natural gas that if piped to neighboring South Africa could bring \$100 million a year in hard currency to what may be the poorest country in the world. Last month, an aggressive American company, Enron Corp. of Houston, triumphed over several competitors and signed an agreement with Mozambique to develop the field.

Enron plans to construct an 800-mile pipeline (1,300 kilometers) into South Africa, provided it can find a customer. The only problem is that during the bidding, Enron may have alienated many of the South African energy companies that were the most promising customers. Some of those companies had wanted a stake in the pipeline themselves.

"If they don't have a buyer for the gas, then Enron loses its rights," said Eric Deffen, a World Bank official. "They can't sit on it forever." Enron must find a customer by June or seek an extension from the Mozambican government.

The joint venture between Enron and the state-owned energy company took diplomacy to put together, company executives and U.S. officials said.

It nearly fell apart several times in the last three months as Mozambican energy officials complained that they were under political pressure from the United States to accept what they saw as a bad deal.

Enron is navigating the political waters of southern Africa against the background of its

problems in India, where its project to build a \$3 billion power plant in Maharashtra state was derailed last summer after nationalist politicians charged that the company had padded costs and bribed officials to get the contract.

In the end, the Mozambique accord came only after Enron agreed to give the state energy company a bigger share of the venture. Mozambican officials said. Along the way, U.S. diplomats and several senators mounted a lobbying campaign to persuade Maputo to sign with Enron.

"Elements of the embassy did a bit of lobbying for the company, which I find a bit strange, because this is a commercial agreement," said John Kachamila, the minister of energy resources, who negotiated the deal. He contended that he was "told that other aid to Mozambique might be in jeopardy if this agreement was not signed."

Maputo relies almost entirely on foreign aid for its budget and receives about \$40 million a year in U.S. aid.

U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, denied that any specific threat to aid had been made.

"It was a little more nuanced than that," one official said. Mozambican officials were told that the U.S. Congress would be less likely to approve the same level of aid for the country if it rejected a major capital project.

"It is difficult to say we should give Mozambique \$40 million a year if it's going to take an opportunity for a \$700 million project and not do it," the official said.

But Enron is hardly home free in Mozam-

See ENRON, Page 13

Cordis Stock Plunges on J&J Doubts

Reuters

NEW YORK—Stock in Cordis Corp. stock plunged Wednesday on fears that Johnson & Johnson may terminate its \$1.8 billion agreement to buy the maker of medical devices.

Cordis shares fell \$10.50 to \$96.00 in late trading after Johnson & Johnson, which agreed last month to buy Cordis for \$109 a share in stock, said it was extending a study of the company's operations.

Some of Cordis's most successful devices are used in conjunction with Johnson & Johnson products for treating clogged arteries.

Johnson & Johnson is extending the period for it to review Cordis's finances until Jan. 22. The period had been set to end Wednesday.

Johnson & Johnson declined to say why it had extended the review or whether it was still committed to the deal. But analysts said the transaction was now in doubt.

"It is a little troubling in that maybe J&J has found something out," said Kurt Kruger at Hambrecht & Quist.

Johnson & Johnson shares rose 12.5 cents in late trading, to \$86.625.

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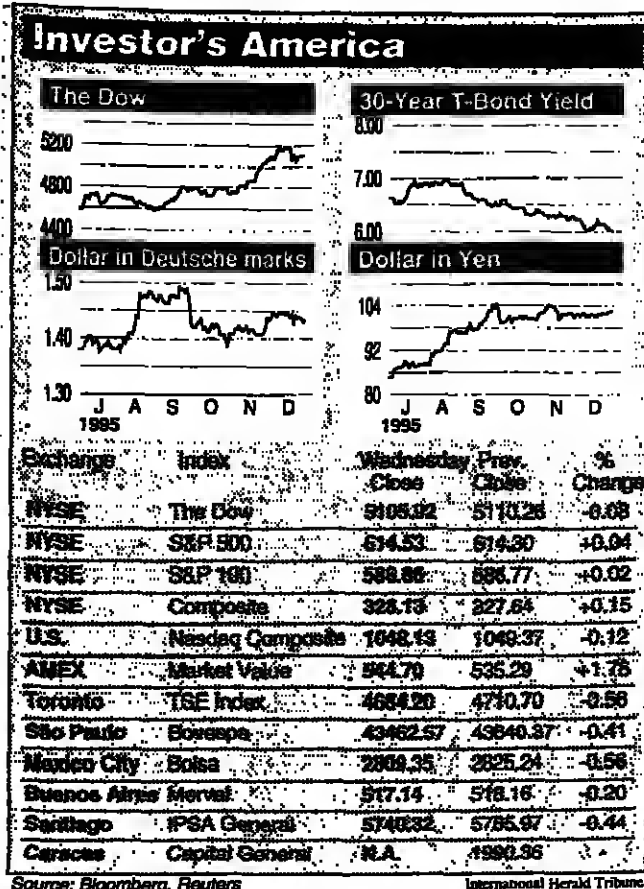
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CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Dec. 27									
Cross Rates									
	\$	£	D.M.	F.F.	Yen	Sw.	Sc.	Sp.	Other
Amsterdam	1.482	2.50	1.165	6.37	1.08	1.39	1.59	1.79	1.85
Brussels	1.482	2.50	1.165	6.37	1.08	1.39	1.59	1.79	1.85
Frankfurt	1.482	2.50	1.165	6.37	1.08	1.39	1.59	1.79	1.85
London (to)	1.482	2.50	1.165	6.37	1.08	1.39	1.59	1.79	1.85
Madrid	1.482	2.50	1.165	6.37	1.08	1.39	1.59	1.79	1.85
Paris	1.482	2.50	1.165	6.37	1.08	1.39	1.59	1.79	1.85
Tokyo	1.482	2.50	1.165	6.37	1.08	1.39	1.59	1.79	1.85
Zurich	1.482	2.50	1.165	6.37	1.08	1.39	1.59	1.79	1.85
1 ECU	1.482	2.50	1.165	6.37	1.08	1.39	1.59	1.79	1.85
1 SDR	1.482	2.50	1.165	6.37	1.08	1.39	1.59	1.79	1.85
Eurocurrency Deposits									
	Dollar	D-Mark	Swiss Franc	Sterling	French Franc	Yen	ECU		
1 month	3 1/8 - 3 3/4	3 1/8 - 3 3/4	3 1/8 - 3 3/4	3 1/8 - 3 3/4	3 1/8 - 3 3/4	3 1/8 - 3 3/4	3 1/8 - 3 3/4		
3 months	3 1/8 - 3 3/4	3 1/8 - 3 3/4	3 1/8 - 3 3/4	3 1/8 - 3 3/4	3 1/8 - 3 3/4	3 1/8 - 3 3/4	3 1/8 - 3 3/4		
6 months	3 1/8 - 3 3/4	3 1/8 - 3 3/4	3 1/8 - 3 3/4	3 1/8 - 3 3/4	3 1/8 - 3 3/4	3 1/8 - 3 3/4	3 1/8 - 3 3/4		
1 year	3 1/8 - 3 3/4	3 1/8 - 3 3/4	3 1/8 - 3 3/4	3 1/8 - 3 3/4	3 1/8 - 3 3/4	3 1/8 - 3 3/4	3 1/8 - 3 3/4		
Key Money Rates									
	United States	Swiss	French	British	German	Japanese	Italian	Spanish	Other
Discount rate	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
Prime rate	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
Federal funds	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
3-month CDs	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
6-month CDs	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
1-year CDs	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
1-year Treasury bill	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
2-year Treasury bill	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
5-year Treasury bill	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
10-year Treasury bill	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
30-year Treasury bond	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
10-year Government bond	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4
Other Dollar Values									
	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency
Argentine peso	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Australian dollar	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Canadian dollar	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
French franc	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
German mark	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Italian lira	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Japanese yen	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Spanish peseta	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Swiss franc	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
United Kingdom pound	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
U.S. dollar	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
West German mark	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Yugoslav dinar	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Forward Rates									
	1-month	3-month	6-month	9-month	1-year	18-month	24-month	36-month	48-month
Amsterdam	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482
Brussels	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482
Frankfurt	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482
London (to)	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482
Madrid	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482
Paris	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482
Tokyo	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482
Zurich	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482
1 ECU	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482
1 SDR	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482	1.482
Sources: Reuters, Lloyd's Bank, Bank of Tokyo (Tokyo), Royal Bank of Canada (Toronto), Agence France Presse (Paris), Bank of Dallas (Dallas), A.M. -									

THE AMERICAS



Very briefly:

Daiwa's N.Y. Branch Chief Indicted

NEW YORK (Bloomberg) — The former general manager of the New York branch of Daiwa Bank Ltd. was indicted Wednesday on charges that he had helped a former Daiwa trader conceal a \$1.1 billion trading loss from U.S. bank regulators.

The former official, Masahiro Tsuda, was charged with defrauding the U.S. Federal Reserve Board between July and September 1995 and concealing a felony. The losses were incurred by Toshitake Iguchi, a former government-bond trader who previously pleaded guilty to hiding the \$1.1 billion loss from Daiwa executives and from U.S. bank regulators for 12 years, U.S. prosecutors said. If convicted, Mr. Tsuda would face a maximum sentence of eight years in prison and a \$500,000 fine.

•The Federal National Mortgage Association said it would sell \$1 billion of preferred stock to buy back its common shares. The company, known as Fannie Mae, also plans a 4-for-1 stock split to take effect Jan. 12 for shares of record on Jan. 8.

•Spiegel Inc. is eliminating its quarterly dividend of 5 cents a share to dedicate the funds to strategic growth programs.

•Caryle Group Inc. raised its stake in GTS Duratek Inc. by buying 500,000 shares from National Patent Development Corp. Caryle now holds 2.2 million shares in GTS, an environmental services company.

•Peru raised \$1.15 billion in 1995 by privatizing 47 companies.

•Venezuela's gross domestic product rose 2.2 percent this year as an expanding oil industry helped the economy grow for the first time since 1992.

(Reuters, Knight-Ridder, Bloomberg)

'Strange Bed Partners' Plague RJR

By Glenn Collins
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Each year, groups with a strong social conscience or a pressing policy agenda may ask stockholders of giant corporations to vote on resolutions calling for anything from equal employment opportunities in Northern Ireland to the preservation of endangered species.

And each year, dozens of such resolutions are treated with perfunctory courtesy and then soundly defeated. The average entry gathers only 8 percent of shareholder votes.

But this holiday season, the concerns of one group of shareholders identified with religion have inadvertently meshed with the profit-seeking interests of powerful dissident shareholders to put RJR Nabisco Holdings Corp., an \$8.6 billion consumer-products company, on the defensive.

The company has firmly opposed its investor calls for an immediate spin-off of its food business from its tobacco operations,

saying that would lead to dire legal liabilities and lower credit ratings.

RJR Nabisco's legal might has been directed against the investors Carl Icahn and Bennett LeBow. They own 13 million shares, or a 4.8 percent stake, in RJR Nabisco and have filed for a consent solicitation that would permit RJR Nabisco's 450,000 shareholders to vote on a spin-off.

Now, the legal thrust has been redirected to oppose oec and unlikely barbarians at the gate: two small groups of Roman Catholic priests pushing RJR Nabisco for the same spin-off—who together own 980 shares and belong to a large ecumenical confederation, the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility in New York.

If the LeBow-Icahn proposals do not survive RJR Nabisco's legal challenges, the priests' resolution could provide a clear-cut choice on a spin-off for shareholders at the company's annual meeting in April.

None are more struck by the oddness of the alliance between God and the Mighty Dollar than the allies themselves.

"If a cellist can use the phrase, sometimes you end up with strange bed partners," said the Rev. Michael Crosby of the Interfaith Center, a brother in the Capuchin Franciscan order in Milwaukee who wrote the priests' resolution.

Mr. LeBow, who had not known about the priests' proposal, said with a laugh: "Interest in an immediate spin-off is clearly non-denominational." He added: "We are, however, disturbed that RJR Nabisco keeps going to extraordinary lengths to prevent its shareholders from having a voice."

Last month, the priests asked RJR Nabisco to put their resolution, calling for an immediate spin-off of the food business, on the ballot for the April meeting. RJR Nabisco's lawyers asked the priests to withdraw the measure, then tried to bargain with them. The priests have refused.

Now the company's lawyers are urging the Securities and Exchange Commission to block the priests' resolution, contending that, among other things, it duplicates Mr. LeBow's consent solicitation.

Happy Ending for Hollywood? Not in '95

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A record box-office take. Nearly 1.3 billion North American admissions. Blockbusters such as "Batman Forever" and "Apollo 13." That doesn't sound like a bad year in Hollywood—but it was.

Despite a projected \$5.2 billion gate, the 1995 film season was very disappointing, studio executives say. Time Warner Inc.'s Warner Bros. and Walt Disney Co. enjoyed good returns, but profits were scarce and margins slim elsewhere. This year's movies cost much more to make and distribute than in 1994, and higher ticket

prices did not offset flat admissions.

"We're sort of in a tailspin right now, and it's getting worse," said Tom Stempel, senior vice president of News Corp.'s 20th Century-Fox. After the Christmas weekend, domestic theaters had sold about \$5.1 billion in tickets, Daily Variety reported. At that point in 1994 sales were \$5.11 billion.

The weekend's top-grossing film was "Waiting to Exhale," which earned \$14.1 million. Following it were "Toy Story," \$12.1 million; "Jumanji," \$10.6 million; "Grumpier Old Men," \$7.8 million; and "Heat," \$7.3 million.

Even though 1995 will probably be Hol-

lywood's biggest ever, topping the 1994 mark of \$5.2 billion as calculated by Variety, it did not come cheaply. The 1995 increase of 0.8 percent hardly covered higher production costs. Hollywood spent an estimated 15 percent more this year bringing movies to the screen. Just to break even, films now have to make \$100 million. Ten 1994 releases reached that mark, compared with seven in 1995.

This year's top two movies were "Batman Forever" (\$184 million) and "Apollo 13" (\$172 million). The top two of 1994—"Forrest Gump" and "The Lion King"—each made more than \$300 million.

French Franc Gets Lift From Data, but Labor Concern Looms

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — The French franc rose Wednesday after a batch of favorable economic news, but the threat of further labor unrest kept gains in check. The statistics office INSEE said household consumption of manufactured goods in France rose 4.4 percent in November from October. Consumption was up 1.4 percent from a year earlier.

French durable-goods orders rose

5.2 percent from October, led by purchases of household electronics and furniture.

The dollar closed in New York at 4.8975 French francs, down from 4.9092 francs Tuesday.

But optimism about the data was tempered by a warning from the leader of the Force Ouvrière union that France could face a new wave of strikes early next year.

French unions staged more than three

weeks of crippling strikes starting in late November, and analysts expect

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

economic data for December to reflect slowing growth because of the labor unrest and related disruptions.

Meanwhile, the dollar edged up as investors hoped President Bill Clinton and Congress would soon end their budget standoff.

"The mood is that when you walk into the new year they may have something accomplished," said Steven Saslow at HSBC Securities in New York.

But not everyone was optimistic that a budget accord could be reached by year-end.

"The longer it takes, the more we'll worry about it," a dealer said. The U.S. currency rose to 1.4335 Deutsche marks from 1.4305 DM on

Tuesday, to 1.1570 Swiss francs from 1.1540 francs and to 102.83 yen from 102.33 yen. The pound was steady at \$1.5600.

The dollar was lifted against the yen by signs of strength in Japan's economy, which could translate into increased imports, heavier capital outflows and a lower trade surplus with the United States. It also could drive investors from Japanese bonds.

(Knight-Ridder, APX, Bloomberg)

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Wednesday, Dec. 27

Prices in local currencies.

Telecom

High Low Close Prev.

Amsterdam

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Philippine Airlines Goes Jet Shopping

Airbus and Boeing Picked For \$2.7 Billion Outlay

Bloomberg Business News
MANILA — Philippine Airlines Inc. will spend \$2.7 billion to buy aircraft from Boeing Co. and Airbus Industrie over the next three years, a company official said Wednesday.

With its boardroom wrangle almost settled, the airline plans to buy eight 747-400s, Boeing's biggest long-distance jet, its chief financial officer, Jaime Bautista, said.

The Philippine flag carrier also said it would buy four A340-300s, eight A330-300s and 12 A320s from Airbus Industrie.

The purchases are part of a plan to expand and return the airline to profitability after Chairman Lucio Tan hammered out an agreement with the government last week to gain majority ownership of the airline.

"The chairman believes this is the only way for PAL to compete with the megacarriers and to be able to cope with the demanding market," Mr. Bautista said.

With repairs and service, he said, the cost of the fleet renewal will rise to \$3 billion.

While Mr. Bautista refused to say how much Boeing and Airbus each would receive, Boeing 747-400s cost about \$150 million each.

The order strengthens Airbus's backlog at the end of the year in which the European consortium sold few of its A340 and A330 jets in competition with Boeing's new 777 jetliner. The big loser in the order was McDonnell Douglas Corp.

"Every order is becoming very important," said Nick Cunningham, an analyst with Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

Mr. Bautista said the purchases hinged on completion of the agreement with government institutions that own a combined 48 percent of the airline to reduce their stakes. "I don't even want to think of this agreement not pushing through," he said. "We have already discussed with Airbus and Boeing the delivery schedule."

Under the ownership agreement, Mr. Tan would remain in command by subscribing to a proposed doubling of the airline's capital to 10 billion pesos (\$381 million). The government institutions have agreed to waive their rights to the new shares.

Mr. Bautista said the capital increase would be used to help pay for the new jets.

During a three-year ownership battle, Mr. Tan frequently feuded with minority shareholders over his plans to update and expand the fleet.

Mr. Tan has controlled PAL through his 51 percent ownership of PR Holdings Inc., the company that won the bidding for 67 percent of the formerly state-owned airline in 1991.

PAL had a loss of 1.7 billion pesos in the year ended in March and has projected a loss of 1.5 billion pesos for the current financial year.

Delay in Partner Choice
Aviation Industries of China has postponed until March the naming of a Western partner in the Chinese-South Korean venture to build a 100-seat passenger aircraft, Reuters reported from Beijing.

The company had been due to announce its choice by the end of the year.

Taiwan Beams Optimism

Reuters
TAIPEI — Two years ago, law-abiding television viewers in Taiwan had a choice of three channels — state television, state television and state television.

Now, some 200 private cable operators are bringing a visual cornucopia to Taiwan's homes, attracted by a populace mad about television and the prospect of expanding from this island into neighboring China's vast market.

Foreigners are barred from owning more than 20 percent of any local cable operator, but proposed legislation is expected to allow them into the island's satellite-TV market, officials said.

"This is a very, very big pie," said Ding Nai-chu, vice president of the private Super TV. "The market is huge and has a lot of potential."

In surveys, more than 70 percent of Taiwan residents list watching television as their favorite pastime, and Ms. Ding said about 20 billion new Taiwan dollars (\$732.9 million) was spent on television advertising last year.

Ms. Ding's company, set up in October, symbolizes a move in the television industry away from the fly-by-night operators who used to illegally wire homes to receive a cable service of pirated videos.

Capitalized at 775 million dollars, Super TV is a giant in an infant industry and is considering a foreign partnership as a way to bolster its capital further.

"We are very ambitious," Ms. Ding said. "We have invested a lot of money in equipment and personnel."

"But I am quite confident that the investment will eventually pay off," she added.

Super TV plans soon to about double its capitalization, she said, and negotiations are

under way with many foreign companies. She declined to identify any of the interested foreign investors.

"Many foreign funds see Asia's newly emerging electronic media as a new channel of investment," she said. "A lot of major foreign firms have showed a high interest in Super TV. Our eventual goal is to aim at the entire Chinese market. Just close your eyes and think of how vast the mainland market is. I am very bullish."

The common language and heritage of China and Taiwan allow popular culture to transcend political differences, and Taiwan soap operas are among the most popular imports in China's market of 1.2 billion people.

The melodramatic tale "Cousin Wan Jun," which traces the love of three brothers for their alluring but confused cousin, is just one hit to have straddled the Taiwan Strait.

Although Taiwan's television products can be sold on the mainland, its broadcasters are still barred. Political tensions will have to ease before Beijing opens up, analysts said.

Beijing on long-term potential, though, several Nationalist Party have set up their own channels. But for foreigners interested in Taiwan's market of 4 million cable households or in finding a conduit to the mainland market, legislative barriers remain.

A draft law that would allow foreign satellite broadcast companies to set up in Taiwan has been passed by the cabinet but still needs parliamentary approval, and officials said they did not know when Parliament would act.

The law restricting foreigners to a 20 percent stake in local cable television operators, however, is not up for review.

Taipei Bank Eases Rules on Funds

Bloomberg Business News
TAIPEI — The central bank announced steps Wednesday to liberalize Taiwan's financial system.

As of Monday, the bank will abolish a \$3 billion ceiling on the total amount of funds raised abroad that domestic companies can bring into the country and allow foreign stock investors to take money out of Taiwan without seeking government consent.

The bank also said it would double, to the equivalent of \$20 million a year, the amount of

new Taiwan dollars that businesses can take out of the country freely.

The liberalizations came as Taiwan's index of leading economic indicators fell 0.5 percent in November from October, the seventh decline in the past eight months, the government said in a preliminary report.

Slower growth in stock prices, the money supply and export shipments plus a decline in applications for building permits in Taipei were the reasons, according to the Council for Economic Planning and Development.

Debts Drive China Firm To Merger

Reuters
SHANGHAI — China's top securities house will merge with three other companies after incurring huge debts in bond futures trading, traders said Wednesday.

The move could herald a wave of similar mergers and acquisitions as a protracted slump in China's two fledgling stock markets takes its toll on securities houses, industry analysts said.

Shanghai International Securities is to be merged soon with Shanghai Finance Securities, Shanghai Pudong Development Securities Co. and Shanghai International Trust & Investment Co., traders said.

The resulting entity will be called Shanghai New Securities Co., they said.

Securities authorities have agreed to the plan, the sources said, and a formal announcement is expected shortly.

"This is a real hit but was to be expected," one trader with Shanghai-based Guotai Securities said.

Analysts said many securities houses had run into trouble after the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock markets plunged in mid-1994 and that mergers were being accepted as a solution to some of their problems.

Beijing has tightened control over new issues and listings, resulting in loss of business for many securities firms.

The hard-currency B share markets in Shanghai and Shenzhen have fallen to record lows in the past week, while domestic A shares have hovered near six-month lows.

But the B share index rose Wednesday on bargain-hunting after several days losses, brokers said. It gained 1.1 percent, to 47,769 points.

Investor's Asia

Exchange	Index	Wednesday Close	Change
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	9,865.28	+0.53
Singapore	Straits Times	2,371.35	-0.24
Sydney	AFOR Index	2,291.10	-0.25
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	20,637.76	+0.54
Kuala Lumpur	Composite	884.13	-0.04
Bangkok	SET	1,274.14	+0.02
Seoul	Composite Index	882.84	-0.73
Taipei	Stock Market Index	4,074.55	-0.56
Manila	PSE	2,294.38	-0.25
Jakarta	Composite Index	5,127.77	-0.54
Wellington	NZSE	1,135.17	+0.21
Bombay	Sensitive Index	3,410.49	

Source: Reuters International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- South Korea will allow foreign companies to list their shares in the form of depositary receipts on the Korean Stock Exchange starting in May, the Finance Ministry said.
- Samsung Electronics Co. forecast sales of \$27 billion for 1996, up 29 percent from an estimated \$21 billion for 1995.
- Tenaga Nasional Bhd. expects Kuala Lumpur to rule in the first quarter of 1996 on the power producer's application for a rate increase, its chairman said.
- Chinese work units and owners of private enterprises must report employees' total monthly income to tax authorities in the new year, the State General Administration of Taxation said.
- ITC Ltd.'s chairman, Yogesh Deshpande, plans a "healing" dialogue with the company's British shareholder, BAT Industries PLC. Mr. Deshpande was elected over BAT's opposition.
- Yamaha Motor Co. formed a joint venture to produce and market motorcycles in Thailand with Siam Yamaha Co.
- Sharp Corp. established a fully owned subsidiary, Sharp Electronics Malaysia, in Selangor to supply parts for production and repair to Sharp manufacturing bases worldwide.
- NEC Corp. will increase production of mobile phones for overseas sale in the year to March 1997 at its plants in Britain, Mexico, Australia and China.

ENRON: Customers Wanted for African Gas Deal

Continued from Page 9

bique, as it stepped on the toes of South African companies to obtain the right to build the pipeline.

One potential buyer, Eskom Ltd., the South African electric utility, has said the price being sought for the gas is too high. Another possible customer, Sasol Ltd., a coal-to-oil processing company, is still stinging from having lost its bid to build the pipeline before Enron arrived on the scene in late 1994.

Without sales contracts, Enron will not be able to attract the \$600 million in financing to build the pipeline, World Bank officials say.

Enron executives say they have high hopes of finding a buyer among South Africa's mining and steel companies, which could use the gas for mining operations.

Joseph W. Sutton, president of Enron Development, a subsidiary, said the talks were still in a preliminary stage.

"We are hopeful," he said. "This is very early in the development stages of this project."

The pipeline project is Enron's first foray into Africa. The company is the largest supplier of natural gas in the world, with 44,000 miles of pipelines in South America and the United States, and in recent years it has

tried aggressively to break into new markets in the Third World.

Gulf Oil Co. discovered the Pande field in Mozambique in 1961 while drilling an exploratory well in Inhambane Province. The field measures 12 miles by 15 miles and has reserves of about 2 trillion cubic feet (60 billion cubic meters). The Mozambican energy company, Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos, has exclusive rights to develop it.

But 20 years of civil war in Mozambique hindered development. That changed when a peace treaty was signed in 1992. President Joaquim A. Chissano has been seeking to increase exports, which total only about \$300 million a year, mostly shrimp and cashew nuts. The Enron deal is one such effort.

Although the terms of the joint venture are confidential, officials with knowledge of the details say Enron controls a majority of the shares.

After Enron pays taxes, however, the government will end up with about half the revenue — an expected \$140 million to \$200 million a year.

But in August, a tentative deal between Enron and Mozambique began to unravel, a U.S. official said. American diplomats in Maputo tried to salvage it, and several U.S. senators and W. Anthony Lake, the

president's national security advisor, wrote to Maputo.

Then the World Bank stepped in, concluding that Maputo was accepting too much risk. The deal was renegotiated and signed in November.

But Mozambican officials then caused a minor political controversy by complaining about the U.S. diplomats' role in the talks.

India Unsure on Deal

The cabinet of Maharashtra was continuing to discuss whether to revive Enron's power project there, the head of the state government said Wednesday, according to a Bloomberg Business News report from Bombay.

Chief Minister Manohar Joshi said a decision would be made by Jan. 15, the date lawyers are set to resume discussions on compensation for the project's cancellation. Enron has already agreed to new terms for the project.

Bal Thackeray, the leader of the Shiv Sena party that heads the government, earlier said the government had made a decision. He is demanding further concessions from the company.

BREW: Tsingtao's Falling Profit and Derailed Expansion Plans Leave Investors Bitter

Continued from Page 9

hit by unexpected tax increases, and still others were simply priced badly. But the main problem is that it has gradually dawned on investors that they understand little about how Chinese companies are run.

When they do get a peek inside, they do not like what they see. Tsingtao is a prime example.

It has been making beer since the Germans opened the brewery in 1903, when they colonized a section of the Shandong peninsula. As it earned a reputation for making the best beer in China, Tsingtao gained a robust 70 percent of China's beer export market.

When the company announced plans to list shares in Hong Kong, Tsingtao executives boldly proclaimed plans to dominate China's fragmented beer market, in which more than 800 breweries compete.

The response was overwhelming, and the initial offering was so oversubscribed — more than 100 times — that few investors could get in.

After Tsingtao was listed at \$1.40, a towering 98 times earn-

ings, in 1994, Anheuser-Busch Cos., the American beer giant, bought a 5 percent stake.

But bad news began emerging about Tsingtao in the middle of this year.

Profit in the first half fell 49 percent, as prices of raw materials surged but competition prevented Tsingtao from charging more for its beer. More troubling, analysts looking over the company's vague annual report discovered that Tsingtao's managers had taken nearly half of the \$190 million from their share issue and, rather than investing it in plant expansion — as had been promised in a prospectus — lent it to other Chinese companies that Tsingtao refuses to identify.

With its new capital thus mysteriously tied up, Tsingtao had to scale back expansion plans and halve projected growth in beer production, which is now at about 3 million barrels a year. Worse, it remains unclear how much of Tsingtao's loans will be repaid: China's state-owned enterprises are famous for losing money and remaining immune to demands for repayment.

Tsingtao executives brush

away questions about their unorthodox lending.

"I don't see what the fuss is about," said Qiao Qijian, a senior executive at Tsingtao. "Many investors from Hong Kong are concerned. But when they come to visit, they can see that everything is going fine."

Mr. Qiao said Tsingtao had been unable to invest its newly raised capital immediately because of shifting policy in Beijing and had to delay its planning throughout 1994 until a meeting was held in February 1995.

At that time, Beijing officials informed company executives about the need to shift China's alcohol consumption away from the traditional favorite, grain alcohol, because of a growing shortage of grain.

That meant beer and wine production was to be encouraged, which sounded good for Tsingtao. Yet the fact that a leading beer company's expansion was dictated by a government meeting, itself most concerned with the politics of grain production, was an indication of the way the emphasis remained on government planning rather than on market demand.

Moreover, Mr. Qiao conced-

ed, the financing of increased beer production had not even been discussed at the meeting.

Some found that short-sighted, with China's beer market entering an intensely competitive stage and foreign breweries marching into China almost daily. Asahi and Kirin of Japan and Foster's of Australia recently announced plans to expand, and Beck's of Germany and Pabst of the United States are already making beer in China.

[Suntory Ltd. will launch a joint venture in Shanghai in January to expand its beer business in China. The Asian Wall Street Journal reported.]

Talks between Anheuser-

Busch and Tsingtao about expanding the U.S. company's stake to 15 percent or more went sour. Anheuser-Busch executives have told colleagues at other beer companies that the deeper they looked into Tsingtao, the more pessimistic they became about the company's ability to expand its market share.

While Tsingtao is one of China's largest breweries and clearly its best-known, it has just 2.2 percent of the domestic market. Although its 70 percent share of China's beer exports sounds good, that accounts for just 10 percent of Tsingtao's overall sales.

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The costs related to this supply object of this International Competition will be covered by COPEL's own funds.

The Instructions to Bidders and the Contract Documents will be available to interested companies from December 20, 1995, until the day before the documents delivery date, against payment in Brazilian currency of R\$ 150,00 (a hundred and fifty Reals), at the following addresses:

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Fax (55-41) 331-3255

or

Escritório COPEL / São Paulo
Alameda Santos, 1800 14º andar - conj. 14B
01478-200 - São Paulo - SP, Brazil
Phone (55-11) 289-1431

At the time of acquisition of the Instructions to Bidders and the Contract Documents, the company shall present a letter containing name and department of the person for contact, together complete mailing address, phone and fax.

The delivery of the Qualification Documents and the Price Bids will take place on March 03, 1996, at 2:00 P.M., at COPEL's Superintendência de Obras de Gerção meeting room, in Curitiba, 233 Voluntários da Pátria Street, ground floor.

The competition will be ruled by Law n. 8666, dated June 21, 1993, and by other conditions established in the Instructions to Bidders and in the Contract Documents.

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Wednesday's 4 p.m. Close
(Continued)

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Wednesday's 4 p.m.
The 1,000 most-traded National Market securities in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press

[illegible][illegible]

12 Month		Div	Yld P/E	52 Wk High	Low	Latest	Change
High	Low						
27	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
28	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
29	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
30	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
31	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
32	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
33	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
34	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
35	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
36	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
37	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
38	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
39	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
40	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
41	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
42	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
43	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
44	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
45	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
46	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
47	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
48	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
49	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
50	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
51	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
52	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
53	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
54	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
55	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
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58	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
59	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
60	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
61	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
62	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
63	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
64	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
65	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
66	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
67	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
68	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
69	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
70	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
71	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
72	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
73	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
74	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
75	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
76	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
77	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
78	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
79	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
80	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
81	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
82	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
83	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
84	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
85	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
86	27						

G-1		Div	Yld P/E	52 Wk High	Low	Latest	Change
High	Low						
27	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
28	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
29	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
30	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
31	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
32	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
33	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
34	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
35	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
36	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
37	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
38	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
39	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
40	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
41	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
42	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
43	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
44	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
45	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
46	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
47	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
48	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
49	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
50	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
51	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
52	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
53	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
54	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
55	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
56	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
57	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
58	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
59	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
60	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
61	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
62	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
63	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
64	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
65	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
66	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
67	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
68	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
69	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
70	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
71	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
72	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
73	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
74	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
75	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
76	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
77	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
78	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
79	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
80	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
81	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
82	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
83	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
84	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
85	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
86	27						

G-2		Div	Yld P/E	52 Wk High	Low	Latest	Change
High	Low						
27	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
28	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
29	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
30	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
31	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
32	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
33	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
34	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
35	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
36	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
37	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
38	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
39	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
40	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
41	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
42	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
43	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
44	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
45	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
46	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
47	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
48	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
49	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
50	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
51	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
52	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
53	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
54	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
55	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
56	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
57	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
58	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
59	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
60	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
61	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
62	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
63	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
64	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
65	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
66	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
67	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
68	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
69	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
70	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
71	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
72	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
73	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
74	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
75	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
76	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
77	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
78	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
79	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
80	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
81	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
82	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
83	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
84	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
85	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
86	27						

G-3		Div	Yld P/E	52 Wk High	Low	Latest	Change
High	Low						
27	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
28	27.4	1.23	47	897	294	297	+3
29	27.4	1.23	47	89			

[illegible][illegible]

12 Month	Stock	Div	Yld Pct	52 Week High	Low	Close
1712	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1713	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1714	Canadian Northern			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1715	Canadian Western			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1716	Canadian Northern			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1717	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1718	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1719	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1720	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1721	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1722	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1723	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1724	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1725	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1726	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1727	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1728	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1729	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1730	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1731	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1732	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1733	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1734	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1735	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1736	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1737	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1738	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1739	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1740	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1741	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1742	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1743	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1744	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1745	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1746	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1747	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1748	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1749	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1750	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1751	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1752	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1753	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1754	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1755	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1756	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1757	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1758	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1759	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1760	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1761	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1762	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1763	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1764	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1765	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1766	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1767	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1768	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1769	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1770	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1771	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1772	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1773	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1774	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1775	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1776	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1777	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1778	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1779	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1780	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1781	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1782	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1783	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1784	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1785	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1786	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1787	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1788	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1789	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1790	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1791	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1792	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1793	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1794	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1795	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1796	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1797	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1798	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1799	Canadian National			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
1800	Canadian Pacific			27 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2

WORLD ROUNDUP



Buddy Ryan taking field Monday for his last game as Arizona coach.

Cardinals Fire Ryan

FOOTBALL The Arizona Cardinals coach, Buddy Ryan, whose team wrapped up a miserable 4-12 season with a 37-13 loss Monday to Dallas, was fired by Bill Bidwill, the team's owner. Bidwill said he hadn't thought about dismissing Ryan until he watched the Cardinals against the Cowboys. Ryan, also the general manager, had two years left on his contract. He was 12-30 in two years with Arizona after going 43-35-1 in five years with Philadelphia. (AP)

• The current Eagles coach, Ray Rhodes, was voted coach of the year in his first season as an NFL head coach. Rhodes, formerly the defensive coordinator for San Francisco, took a team that lost its final seven games in 1994 and compiled a 10-6 record. Rhodes received 24 votes in balloting by The Associated Press to edge Don Capers of Carolina and Marty Schottenheimer of Kansas City, with 21 each. (AP)

Sports' Most Powerful Man

Rupert Murdoch, owner of the Fox Television Network and newspapers and television stations around the world, heads The Sporting News' list of the 100 most powerful people in sports for the second straight year.

"Rupert Murdoch is transforming the way sports are seen around the globe," said John Rawlings, the editor of The Sporting News. "In just two years, Murdoch has built a Fox Sports programming arsenal that includes the NFL and major league baseball, the NHL, boxing and the perennially high-ratings sport of figure skating."

NBC television's president, Dick Ebersol, was second, with Nike's chairman, Phil Knight, third. (AP)

Orioles Trade for Wells

BASEBALL The Baltimore Orioles obtained David Wells, a left-handed pitcher, from the Cincinnati Reds for two outfielders, Curtis Goodwin and Trovis Valdez. Wells, 32, was 16-5 with Detroit and the Reds last season.

• The Chicago Cubs signed free-agent third baseman Dave Magadan, 33, to a one-year contract. Magadan, 33, hit .313 for Houston last season. (AP)

No Football for Snowballs

FOOTBALL The New York Giants said 75 season-ticket subscriptions will be canceled because of a snowball barrage during the Giants-San Diego game that left 15 injured and nearly resulted in the first forfeit in NFL history. Fifteen people were arrested and 175 were ejected. (AP)

Basketball's Biggest Kid Enjoys Life in a Candy Store

By William Gildea
Washington Post Service

ON AN unpromising bitter March morning in 1985, Maria Muresan and her 14-year-old son, Gheorghe, boarded a transit bus in the rural Romanian town of Tretenii. The diminutive woman and her tall son — he was 6 feet 2 — were bound for the university city of Cluj, some 25 miles distant. She was taking her youngest of six for a routine dental checkup.

"We need some X-rays," the dentist said. "Your teeth have not grown as fast as the rest of you." When the boy walked into an adjoining room, a startled dental technician looked up in amazement and could hardly get his questions out fast enough: "Whew. You are a big guy. How old are you? How tall are you? Do you play basketball?"

The man was shocked that Gheorghe was only 14. No, he had never played basketball. Only soccer. "I have very close friends. They teach basketball. They have a team," the man told Gheorghe. "I will call them." He called, and took Gheorghe to meet them. "Maybe I won't like this," Gheorghe told the coaches. But they persuaded him — and he stayed.

"I move to Cluj," he recalled recently, in his improving English. It took the coaches a month, but they found him a pair of basketball shoes large enough. "They help me a lot. They put me in school. They give me a place to live. They give me food. Every day, 7 to 8:30 P.M., I practice. I say, 'O.K. O.K. I like it.'"

Muresan kept growing, and his game kept improving, especially his shooting and passing. Eventually he moved from his high school and club teams to the Cluj University club team, then to Pau Orthez of the French league. In June 1993, the Washington Bullets selected him in the second round of the National Basketball Association draft, the 30th pick overall. Muresan wasn't remotely a conventional draft choice. Almost immediately, he underwent surgery in France for an overactive pituitary gland, which accounted for his height — 7 feet 7 (2.3 meters). That's taller than anyone who has ever played in the NBA.

A benign tumor on his pituitary gland had grown so large that it intruded on his optic nerve and imperiled his sight; the surgery eliminated most of the tumor. He then was put on daily injections, which he still takes. The Bullets expected him to stay in France, enjoy perhaps the pleasures of Provence as he recovered, touch up his game for one more season in the French league. But Gheorghe, who does most things at a leisurely pace, surprised them. He promptly landed in America and declared himself ready to play. That, the Bullets have learned, is how it is sometimes with Gheorghe. Ask for the salt, he passes the pepper.

The Bullets didn't expect him to improve from raw project to potential stand-out in fewer than 2½ seasons. He surprised them again, becoming at age 24 one of the most accurate field-goal shooters in the league. He collected 18 points and 17 rebounds in Portland during the team's just-cooled West Coast trip.

When Muresan first arrived he faced one daunting problem after another. The death of his mother. A bout with chicken pox. Passing his driver's test while barely able to read English; then losing his way on the roads.

"At first I say I cannot drive in the United States — everything is too big," he said. "There are so many streets, so many bridges. I can't remember. Now I know the route."

"He was in total darkness for so many months," said Sandra Calinescu, a friend who also was born in Romania. "But he's much more at ease now. Lili copes with reality here very well. She's really a big support for 'Ghita.'"

That's Gheorghe's nickname, pronounced "GEET-zz." Lili is the former

Liliana Lazar, a Romanian whom Gheorghe met in Cluj and married at the courthouse in Arlington, Virginia.

One recent afternoon, Gheorghe hurried home to Liliana after a Bullets practice. He had on his usual garb: a Redskins leather jacket and gray sweat pants. He drove a creamy Cadillac sedan — his wife's car; his is a Chevy Blazer. His knees jut so high they almost cradle the steering wheel.

Gheorghe needs headroom as well as legroom: he's a well-proportioned 310 pounds (140 kilograms), and there's great distance from his waist to the top of his crotch.

The previous day he had shaved off a scraggly growth of beard because he said, rubbing his smooth chin, flashing a smile, "I want to look young."

His teammate Calbert Cheaney found that Muresan's freshly shaved look accentuated Gheorghe's nose and kept laughing and trying to leap up and grab it during a lull in practice. Likewise laughing, Gheorghe swatted Cheaney's hand away like an opponent's shot. "Everybody loves Gheorghe," said another teammate, Jim McIlvaine. "The world is one big candy store and Gheorghe is the biggest kid."

Liliana, who is 6-1, greeted him in a high-ceilinged hallway. Their living room is as yet unfurnished, totally empty except for one picture hung on a wall — the couple on their wedding day, Dec. 28, 1993. They spend much of their time in a large family room, with large leather chairs, large sofa, large TV.

Gheorghe opened a high kitchen cupboard that most people would have to stand on tip-toe or a chair to reach. Gheorghe, who can change most ceiling light bulbs at eye level, simply reached straight into the cupboard and pulled out a glass. Then he sat down to eat some chicken. As he ate, he talked about how far basketball had taken him from his northern Romanian homeland of Transylvania.

"Sometimes I miss my Tretenii," he said wistfully, holding a chicken leg in his immense hand. "Some mornings I wake up, I remember something. Going to school. I remember the kids. Sometimes soccer. Every day I think of something different. I play teacher. I look for truck drivers. I want to be a truck driver."

Life was a struggle in rural Romania. Gheorghe's father, Ispas, worked in a factory that produced wiring for electricity. The Muresans' stucco house had no electricity, but it did have four bedrooms and Gheorghe was able to move from the smallest room to a larger one after an older brother had moved out. Gheorghe did not like school.

His fond memories are of his years in Cluj. He is Cluj's boy, renowned for leading Romania in the 1991 Junior World Championships and playing for the national team in 1992, when he scored 42 points in a victory over Sweden. "I feel very, very good in Cluj," he said.

Where in the world would he like to live?

His face parted in a wide smile. "Monte Carlo," he said, eyebrows raised.

He had no trouble adjusting to life in France, beginning in the summer of 1992. "The French people are very close to the



Gheorghe Muresan, the Washington Bullets' 7-foot-7-inch Romanian center, grabbing a rebound and keeping the ball away from Bo Outlaw, the Clippers' center, who is just 6 feet 8.

Romanian people — they are Latin people," he said. "I feel very, very good in France."

Pierre Seillant, the president of the Pau team, decided to sign Gheorghe in a pro contract after Pau and Cluj had played. "The president" — as Gheorghe calls Seillant — "say, 'We do everything we can to have him.' We still are very good friends. The president is coming in February, for a long weekend, to see me."

Two agents for ProServ, Kerry Grant and Bill Sweek, pursued Muresan. "I saw him on French TV and I couldn't believe it — he was huge," said Sweek. "And the other thing I couldn't believe, he had this velvet touch. I just thought, if people could get beyond the way he looks, he had a chance."

"The key was a Romanian player on the Pau team who translated. Mihai Pulbere. We didn't know Gheorghe and Gheorghe trusted Mihai. He was Gheorghe's confidant, his adviser. In France, Gheorghe averaged 18.7 points, 10.3 rebounds, 2.8 blocks. I drove him around Paris and the

things in Paris he hadn't seen were the big beds. He wanted to stop and see the beds in the stores."

The Portland Trail Blazers was the NBA team most interested in him and had him flown in from Europe for tests. The Chicago Bulls also were interested.

"I never heard from the Bullets until the morning of the draft," Sweek said.

John Nash, the Bullets' general manager, had seen photos of Muresan in such European publications as "Gigantes del Basket" and "Maxi Basket" — including an eye-catching picture of Gheorghe standing next to a life-size cutout of Michael Jordan, totally overshadowing Jordan.

"My immediate reaction was, 'Who is this?'" Nash said. After the Bullets drafted him, Gheorghe peered into the TV cameras and said in English the words Sweek had taught him: "I love this game."

The Bullets brought Gheorghe along slowly, giving him a seat on their bench, and providing him with an interpreter for two years, Greg Ghyka.

There's an unwritten rule among some Bullets: Don't split a dinner check with Gheorghe.

"The guy can eat," Ghyka said. "If he's really hungry he might have two entrees. And the waiter might question who we're expecting if we're just two people eating at the table."

Playing against Muresan can be an ordeal. During a game against the Cleveland Cavaliers, Muresan (who wears number 77 because he's 7 feet 7) and John Amaechi pounded on one another repeatedly to gain position. At 6-10, Amaechi looked short next to Muresan. After the game, he also looked weary.

"If you don't hit him, he'll post up so low to the basket it'll be a joke," Amaechi said. "He can do some damage down low with his accuracy. If you don't hit this guy, it's all over. Luckily, I have 270 pounds on my side."

The Bullets coach, Jim Lynnam, had his doubts about Muresan when he was a rookie and Lynnam was still in Philadelphia as general manager of the 76ers. But Gheorghe has surprised the Bullets' coach the past two seasons. Lynnam praised Muresan's improved stamina, lateral movement and ability to get up and down the court. Slow as he looks, Muresan is faster than he used to be. Lynnam credits the Bullets' strength and conditioning coach, Dennis Householder, who in turn praised Gheorghe's willingness to work.

In scoring and rebounding, Gheorghe is putting up numbers the way he did in the French league. Will Gheorghe ever jump higher?

"No," said Lynnam. "Although he's no 7-footer. He's a 7-7 footer."

So what does Big Gheorghe have to do to be a finished product?

"Stop his fouls that are careless," Lynnam said. "He misses a rebound, then he reaches back and tries to strip the ball from the opponent. The other thing is more mental. Barkley, Dr. J. They all have their way of getting themselves ready to play, to do it again. To do it again!"

Lynnam repeated, louder. He wants Gheorghe fired-up for every game.

Gheorghe looked alternately pleased and concerned when asked to assess his ability, as he finished his chicken. He looked happy because he loves to shoot and score; it's his defense he must work on. "I play real hard defense," he stressed. "I do not like other team in my basket. Sometime I do stupid foul."

But his salary reflects his improvement. He received \$150,000 his rookie season, but now he's in the second year of a four-year, \$5.4 million contract. Except for occasional spears on clothing, he's very careful with his money.

One day he visited the National Zoo. "The moment Ghita showed up the bear retreated into his hole," said Calinescu. We tried it a few times. Every time Ghita showed up, the bear retreated."

Gheorghe shoots pool in his basement and reads Romanian novels, especially detective stories.

"I like to stay home with Liliana," he said.

She is happy in America. "People smile all the time," she said. "So I like this." "It is O.K. for now," Gheorghe said.

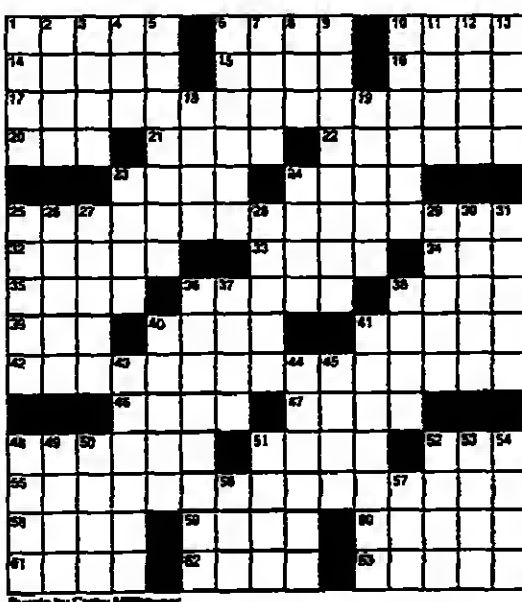
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1 Kickapoo, e.g.
6 Tune-fishing painter
10 Silent one
14 Emulated the Blob

15 "My People" author
16 Dash
17 Like well-behaved cleric?
20 Singular
21 Mirror backing

22 It can bring a tear to your eye
23 The Great Commoner
24 Soothing on TV
25 Like mosquitoes at a camp?
26 Pernod ingredient
27 Hoopster Archibald
28 "Who, Horatio?"
29 Baker or Battle, e.g.
30 Producers of bangs?
31 Swindle, slangily
32 Put away the dishes
33 Exec's dispatch
41 Pickle
42 Like tie-dyed clothes?
43 Ham
44 Fritz! to Nancy
45 Sully
46 Marcyhurst College site
47 Indian sovereignty
48 Like Cinderella before the Prince?
49 Blue dye
50 Kind of thermometer
51 Ticker imperative
52 20's heavyweight Turney
53 Street band
54 Goes the distance

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1 Fast food option
2 Cruelty
3 Shirt label
4 High-riser, e.g.
5 High-rise, e.g.



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Solution to Puzzle of Dec. 27

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TRIST SUSPICION
DIGITAL VERITIGO
ASH OVEREAT
PEONAGE SYNERGY
BAIRD BEE
HITCHCOCKMOVIES
OIRA LIANE
STREBAR TREIFUL
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REBECCA BANEET
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Richardson Attacks and Puts England on Defensive

Reuters
England limped to 40 for one wicket in reply to South Africa's 428 all out on the second day of the fourth test in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

The paceman Shaun Pollock made an early breakthrough when Alec Stewart wobbled lamely at his second ball to give Dave Richardson a simple catch be-

hind the stumps. However, Michael Atherton and Jason Gallian survived to the close despite seven overs of dangerous spin bowling from Paul Adams, an 18-year-old making his debut.

Richardson earlier scored an aggressive 84 after South Africa resumed in the morning on 230 for four. England dropped five

catches to allow South Africa to build up a large total.

"In Melbourne, meanwhile, Australia extended its overnight 234 for three to 500 for six declared — Steve Waugh hitting an unbeaten 131 — and Sri Lanka was 29 for one at the close.

Sri Lanka's off-spinner, Muttiah Muralitharan, who had been no-balled seven times for throw-

ing the ball on Tuesday by the Australian umpire Darrell Hair, bowled 20 overs on the second day without being no-balled.

Muralitharan bowled only from the end where Steve Dunne, of New Zealand, was umpiring.

Hair looked on silently from square leg, the position from which an umpire usually calls a bowler for throwing.

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(Continued From Page 7)

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SPORTS

Home Is Where
Detroit and N.Y.
Shine on the Ice

The Associated Press
Home losses to the Ottawa Senators, the worst team in the National Hockey League for four years running, have inspired the New York Rangers and Detroit Red Wings to lengthy successful streaks at home and shares of the league's points lead.

Detroit's coach, Scotty Bowman, tied the NHL record for most games coached as his

NHL ROUNDUP

Red Wings overcame an early two-goal deficit Tuesday night to win their 11th straight game at Joe Louis Arena, 3-2, over St. Louis.

In New York, the Rangers overcame a home unbeaten streak to 17 as two goals by Pat Verbeek and Mark Messier led the team to a 4-1 victory over the Senators.

Both teams' last loss at home against Ottawa, which fell to 7-26-1 season. Each has 52 points, tied with the Capitals.

After Bowman's 1,606th game as an NHL coach, tying him with Al Arbour atop the career list for games coached, he seemed unimpressed with his own accomplishment.

"It's just another game," he said after Dino Ciccarelli's goal with 7:12 remaining provided the winning margin.

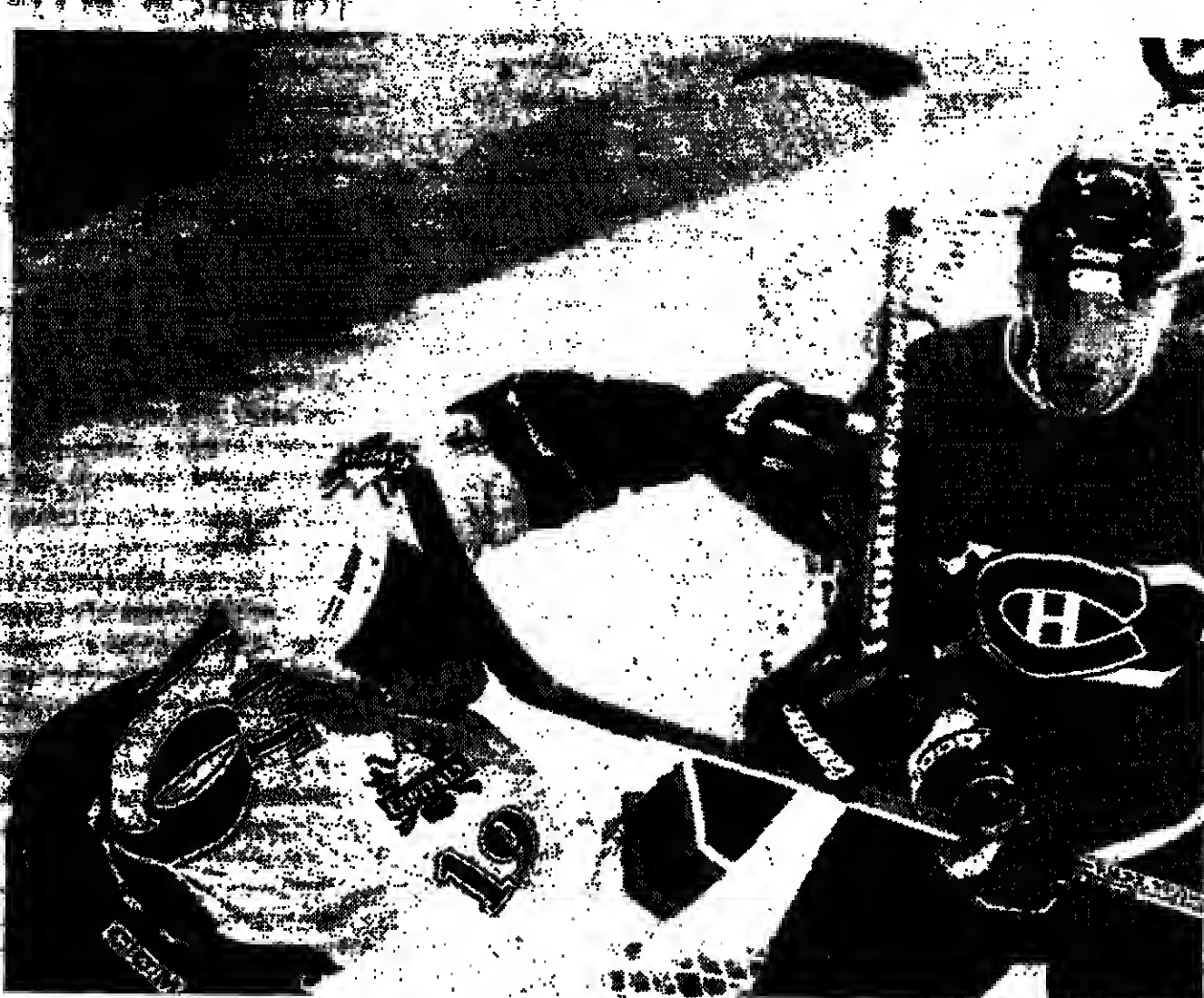
Rangers 6, Senators 4 New York improved to 14-0-3 in its last 17 games at Madison Square Garden since losing to Ottawa on Oct. 22.

The home unbeaten streak is the longest current streak in the NHL and the fifth-longest in franchise history. The team record is 24, set in 1971-72.

"It was like a case of David and Goliath," the Senators' coach, Dave Allison, said.

Rangers goals by Sergei Nemchinov and Messier in the third period put the game away after Lance Pitlick tied it at 4-4 four minutes into the third period.

Penguins 6, Sabres 3 In Pittsburgh, Mario



Washington's Brendan Witt, left, taking the brunt of a collision with Montreal's Patrice Brisbois. The Capitals won, 4-0.

Lemieux and Jaromir Jagr remained tied for the league's goal-scoring lead as each scored his 30th and the Penguins took a 6-1 lead into the third period.

Jagr did gain ground on Lemieux in the scoring race by adding three assists to Lemieux's one, and his 72 points trail only Lemieux's 78.

Islanders 3, Bruins 3 Boston's rally from a three-goal deficit in the third period was capped when the Bruins defenseman Ray Bourque picked off an errant clearing pass

and scored with 3:40 remaining in regulation at New York.

Capitals 4, Canadiens 0 Jim Carey stopped 20 shots for his sixth career shutout, and host Washington broke the game open with three goals in a 2-2 tie in the third period.

Blackhawks 5, Stars 3 Dallas remained winless against Central Division teams this season after Murray Craven deflected Eric Daze's long shot past Darcy Wakulak to break a tie with 3:59 to play at Chicago.

Flames 4, Canucks 2 Calgary's defenseman Jamie Huscroft, who entered the season with two goals in 135 NHL games, bounced in a shot from the point at 13:14 of the third period to break a 2-2 tie in Vancouver. It was his second of the season.

Avalanche 5, Sharks 1 Colorado, leading the Pacific Division by 13 points, took a 2-0 lead just 1:39 into the game at San Jose. Alexei Gusarov scored on a slap shot from near center ice after 31 seconds. Just 1:08 later, Scott Young scored to make it 2-0.

Bulls Lose in Cleveland,
To End December Streak

The Associated Press

After a month, the Chicago Bulls finally lost their third game of the season.

The Indiana Pacers' 103-97 victory at home Tuesday night was the Bulls' first loss since Nov. 26 at Seattle. The teams meet again Friday night at the United Center, where Chicago is undefeated this season.

"We can start another (winning) streak. We've got a couple of days to practice and get back on track for Friday," said Michael Jordan, who marched his scoring average

NBA ROUNDUP

of 30 points but missed 17 of 28 shots.

Indiana opened a 21-point lead after one quarter and a 24-point lead in the second period, then held off Chicago's comeback in the fourth.

"This was the best first half we ever had. This was a very big win for us," said Rik Smits, who led the Pacers with 26 points.

The loss left Chicago one victory short of matching the longest winning streak — 14 — in franchise history and prevented it from going undefeated in a calendar month for the first time. Still, the Bulls' 23-3 record leaves them on pace for a record of 75-9 or 74-10. Either would be the best in National Basketball Association history.

Kings 118, Spurs 98 In Sacramento, the second-longest winning streak in the league also came to an end. Walt Williams scored 20 of his 25 points in the second half, helping Sacramento snap San Antonio's six-game winning streak. Mitch Richmond led all scorers with 31 points.

Williams, wearing a mask after missing the previous three games with a broken nose, connected on a three-point early in the third period to put the Kings ahead 58-54 and stayed hot after that.

Nuggets 114, Mavericks 102 In Denver, the Nuggets extended Dallas' losing streak to six games as Dale Ellis scored a season-high 30 points.

"When I hit the first one, I knew I was in for a good night. I wanted to take every shot

that was available to me. I put up some that even I was surprised went in. Once you get in a groove, it's hard to miss," Ellis said.

Jazz 114, Trail Blazers 104 In Salt Lake City, Utah, the Jazz also extended Portland's losing streak to six games, the Blazers' longest skid in six years.

The Blazers used single coverage on Karl Malone. He responded with 47 points, eight rebounds, five assists and three steals.

"I was surprised out to see more double-teams," said Malone. "They felt they could play me one-on-one, which was a great challenge."

Pistons 100, Grizzlies 84 In Houston, the defending champions had a hard time shaking free of the worst team in the league.

"We were close," said Eric Murdock, who led the Grizzlies with 16 points. "We tried to hang tough with the world champions. We want to hang in there each night, and anything can happen. That's our goal, to hang around until the fourth quarter."

Heat 96, Nets 93 In Miami, Pat Riley's team avoided falling to .500 for the first time this season by winning for only the second victory in nine games — both against New Jersey.

Lakers 102, Celtics 91 Eddie Jones scored six of his 19 points in a game-ending 13-6 run that secured the victory for Los Angeles over visiting Boston.

Pistons 100, Warriors 80 In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Otis Thorpe had 26 points and 11 rebounds to lead Detroit to its fourth victory in five games. Joe Smith, a Golden State rookie, left the game with 3:58 left in the third quarter after losing his balance on a rebound and landing hard on his right hip.

Hawks 94, Clippers 88 In Atlanta, Steve Smith scored 22 points, Mookie Blaylock had 13 points, eight assists and four steals and Ken Norman added 20 points for the Hawks.

Raptors 83, Bucks 87 In Hamilton, Ontario, the Toronto rookie Damon Stoudamire had 21 points and 11 assists. The game, played at Copps Coliseum, drew a sellout crowd of 17,242.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

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CENTRAL DIVISION

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ART BUCHWALD

Failing Memories

WASHINGTON — The darkest secret in the lives of Americans is that their memories are failing. It's not just an age problem — it's something every person, regardless of advancing years, has dealt with. We all live in fear that someone else will find out about us, when in fact that someone can't remember anything, either.

I discovered this accidentally at a recent dinner party in Georgetown.

I blurted out, "I don't seem to be able to remember anything any more. Whenever I think of something, I search for a pen to write it down, and by the time I find it, I have forgotten what it was I wanted to remind

myself to do. Has anybody seen my spoon?"

Mike Bernstein said, "It must be the water. I'm to the point where I can't remember my wife's name."

"So?" I asked.

"I call her Elizabeth when her name is... Damn, I forgot again."

I realized that I had opened a can of worms.

Everybody at the table admitted that he or she was losing it. Until now they also thought they were the only ones with the problem.

Rosemary Briggs said, "I took my grandchild to Safeway the other day and forgot she was with me. Her mother was furious, particularly when I tried to explain that it was not my fault. I had forgotten where I left my grocery cart."

Audrey Scott said, "I don't have trouble with people. My main problem is I never remember where I parked my car."

Vermeer Gets Encore Despite Budget Crisis

WASHINGTON — The exhibit of Johannes Vermeer paintings at the National Gallery of Art has reopened, using money from a private fund to open despite the government budget crisis.

The gallery is the second major facility to get a temporary reprieve from the shutdown of government departments due to lack of appropriations from Congress. The Smithsonian's Museum of American History also found enough funds to operate this week.

"We are able to open the Vermeer exhibition, which is a very rare event in the annals of art history," said Deborah Ziska, a spokeswoman for the National Gallery.

No one is certain why people are getting like this.

Helen Gelhard said that she read an article that viruses from computers were getting into people's brains and causing memory loss.

Rosemary Sarsfield said that our brains had become overloaded. She confided that she finds it impossible to recall when is the best time to eat oysters, or when to attend her daughter's Communion, or if both occasions have an "r" in them.

I remarked that this all sounded like material for a column. But by the time I reached my desk the next morning, I had to call up Liz Stevens to find out what our dinner conversation had been about.

She promised that she would call me back.

A Generation Gap Among Chinese Filmmakers

By Joan Dupont
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Jiang Wen has been on the town, "up till 4 A.M. with friends from Beijing, talking about all these problems." Placing his pack of Marlboros opposite the matchbook on the table, he maps out his world view: "Over here, you have China, and over there, the West."

A popular actor, Wen, 32, has been nicknamed the Chinese Chaplin, certainly as much for his bombastic, commanding style as his screen talents. He won attention in Zhang Yimou's "Red Sorghum" and stardom in a TV series called "A Pekingese in New York." He has just presented his first film as director, "In the Heat of the Sun," to a packed house during a Chinese film festival in Paris.

A bulky figure who barks exclamations to hectic body language, Wen sports mean-looking

Wen portrays the Cultural Revolution as a dawning of liberty and self-expression.

whiskers, an Irish tweed cap, a Ralph Lauren turtleneck and blood-red socks. Back from shooting in Mongolia, his pate is shaved, which makes him look like a hungry ogre, or his current incarnation as the first emperor of China.

"Last night, we ate French," he explains, "because Chinese restaurants abroad are fake, like Chinese films." He thumps his heart with his fist. "I'm not an official director, I made my movie from here, because I had something to say, not to win prizes. But some filmmakers want recognition, and the West wants to show compassion and understanding for China — those poor Chinese!"

In "The Heat of the Sun," adapted from a novel by Wang Shuo, is a midsummer sex comedy about teenagers under the Cultural Revolution, strikingly different from stately historic sagas by Fifth Generation directors like Zhang and Chen Kaige.

In Wen's movie there is a dash of Beeson and Bontalucci, and he portrays the period as a dawning of liberty and self-expression.

"I was born in '63, and only 10, but I understood what was happening. That period opened our eyes — communism created a new generation, my generation, and the Cultural Revolution brought a breath of idealism. Directors born in the '50s make movies from a

political point of view, criticizing or praising the regime; they have no real personality."

"In the Heat of the Sun" brims with iconoclastic humor — party-line propaganda is put down, parents and teachers are out, love and sex are in, kids triumph. Kinetic zest comes from the director's roller-coaster tempo, and his young actors.

"Choosing the actors is 50 percent of a director's job. I've been an actor for nine years, so I know how to talk to actors. I took five months to find them, and then, I shut them up in military barracks for a month of basic training. I wanted them to read books about the period, dress, talk and walk like kids in the '70s. Just like Westerners, they had mistaken ideas about the Revolution, they said 'Why make a movie about the Red Guards and all that? It's not interesting.'"

Making a movie that explodes tenets about that painful time may be asking for trouble, the director concedes. "The censors were embarrassed; they didn't know how to look at my movie because it was new and dangerous, even the title scared them — the Cultural Revolution is not considered a very sunny period. They wanted cuts, and a year later, after more cuts, they released it."

One of the parts that was cut was his own, playing Monkey as a grown man. Like his young hero, the director was a rambunctious adolescent. "Nobody knew what to do with me and so they said, maybe the theater?" After high school, he auditioned for the Beijing Drama Institute. His younger brother, also an actor, studied at the cinema school and played in Zhang's "To Live." "We have very different ideas," he says. His father is a military man, "very ordinary," and his mother, a professor, is a big strong woman — "My father is scared of her! That's where I get my strength."

His mother's father, a landowner, lost everything under the Cultural Revolution. "It was hard on him, and afterward, nobody made excuses. But my grandfather's story didn't influence me. There was injustice on both sides, and after, everybody said they were persecuted, nobody wanted to say they persecuted others. When you have power, power corrupts. In China, the professors had enormous power; the students rebelled."

This is the story he became a filmmaker to tell.

He read Edgar Snow's 1937 "Red Star Over China" — "a book that taught me a lot. I read history for inspiration because I can't get everything from my imagination, I need the concrete," and was impressed by documentaries by Antonioni, a director who is usually admired



Jiang Wen, in striped shirt, during the shooting of "In the Heat of the Sun."

for fiction rather than for reportage. "His documentaries were more realistic than the Chinese films: You could hear the voices of the students! They believed they were changing the course of history; they had an ideal. Not like young people today who are a little tired."

Wen is identified with the Sixth Generation of Chinese filmmakers, but he calls this a conventional label. "A film is an oeuvre, and you have to judge the work, not the generation. A lot of directors are looking for a helping hand from the West. I'd love to make a movie showing how the Chinese deceive the West and how Westerners lap up this fake idea of China. What do you think? Don't you think I exaggerate a bit?"

Of course, he points out, communism came from the West. "That's why I use Western music, from Mascagni's 'Cavalleria Rusticana' to the Internationale. Some people thought that was odd, but it's normal — the Internationale is a French song."

"In the Heat of the Sun" had a big budget by Chinese standards — more than \$1 million —

which entailed a vast co-production, with funding from Taiwan and Hong Kong, and help from France and Germany. The French producer Jean-Louis Piel took 12 minutes of rushes to the Cannes festival and showed them to Volker Schlöndorff, director of the Babelsberg Studios, who invited Wen to edit in Berlin.

The film has been a hit at home and abroad, but the director doesn't picture working in other countries; nor does he think his success will mean more freedom to make another film. "Perhaps things were freer in the '70s, because the system was overthrown. The Cultural Revolution was a love story between Mao and Chinese youth. To me, Mao was not a god, but a great poet, he created an oeuvre."

Today, there may be the risk of another revolution, Wen thinks. "Because there are big new hotels and karaoke bars, but no real improvement for the working classes and peasants. Mao said that Communist intellectuals were pagans, and I'm not afraid to say what I think. It may mean problems, but that's the way I am."

WEATHER

Forecast for Friday through Sunday, as provided by Accu-Weather.

Europe	Today	High	Low	Tomorrow	High	Low
Algeria	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Andorra	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Armenia	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Austria	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Belgium	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Bulgaria	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Croatia	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Czech Rep.	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Denmark	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Egypt	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Finland	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
France	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Germany	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Greece	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Hungary	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Ireland	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Italy	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Japan	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Korea	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Latvia	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Lithuania	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Netherlands	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Norway	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Poland	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Portugal	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Romania	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Russia	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Slovakia	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Slovenia	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Spain	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Sweden	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Switzerland	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Taiwan	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Tanzania	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Turkey	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Ukraine	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
USA	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
UK	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45

Seasonably cold Friday through Sunday with showers, D.C. to New York City with some sun. A storm will bring a mixture of rain and snow to the Northeast Friday into the weekend. London, Paris and Brussels will be cold at the end of the week.

North America	Today	High	Low	Tomorrow	High	Low
Alaska	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Canada	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
USA	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Alaska	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Canada	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
USA	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Alaska	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Canada	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
USA	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Alaska	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Canada	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
USA	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45

WEEKEND SKI REPORT

Resort	Depth	Mts.	Res.	Snow	Last	Comments
Alaska	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Canada	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
USA	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Alaska	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Canada	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
USA	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Alaska	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Canada	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
USA	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Alaska	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
Canada	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45
USA	16/81	12/55	10/45	13/55	10/45	10/45

AFTER a home-alone Christmas without her sons, Princess Diana slipped out of Britain for a Caribbean vacation, the news agency at London's Heathrow Airport reported. Booked under a false name, Diana boarded a scheduled British West Indies Airlines plane bound for Antigua. She was accompanied by an unidentified female companion, Air News reported. She had spent Christmas Day watching television at home on her own, newspapers reported. To cheer herself up the next day, she visited Susie Orbach, her health therapist. The rest of the royal family, including her estranged husband, Prince Charles, and her sons, Prince William and Prince Harry, were at Queen Elizabeth's Sandringham estate in eastern England for Christmas.

A bizarre 1970 White House encounter between Richard Nixon and Elvis Presley to discuss the war on drugs has become the subject of a book — and it is 61 pages long. "The Day Elvis Met Nixon" was written by Egil Krogh, the presidential aide who served a six-month prison term for his role in the Watergate scandal. He was most surprised by the big hug Elvis gave the president as he left the Oval Office. "I thought to myself, this is the last meeting they let me schedule, because you don't hug Nixon," he said. The Reverend Billy Graham says he won't see Oliver Stone's "Nixon," the movie about his friends Richard and Pat Nixon. He wants to remember them "as they really were." In a news release he said that "I was with the Nixons in both the peaks and valleys of their lives. The Richard and Pat Nixon that I knew served their country with dedication and distinction for over half a century." Graham used to visit the Nixons at the White House and he spoke at their funerals.

Tonya Harding's wedding went off without a hitch, but the aftermath has been anything but a honeymoon. After an amateur photographer at the Olympic skater's wedding to Michael Smith said a picture of the newlyweds to The Oregonian for \$100, Harding complained that the picture invalidated her \$100,000 contract with The Globe. The amateur photographer, who was identified by The Oregonian only as Bob, a 26-year-old who was a guest of a relative of a bridesmaid, said that he left



HOLIDAY MAGIC IN MOSCOW — Nadezhda Grachova and Alexander Uvarov dance in the Bolshoi Ballet's premiere of "Romeo and Juliet."

after Harding yelled profanities and that Smith jumped onto Bob's girlfriend's car. Smith said the car hit him. Harding gave chase in her car and at one point his car was rammed, Bob said. Harding said the fracas is "a remembrance I don't want to have of my wedding."

Former President François Mitterrand of France, ailing from prostate cancer, has been sightseeing in southern Egypt, residents reported. Mitterrand, 79, arrived in Aswan on Sunday to spend Christmas and the New Year, as he has done for several years.

Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton missed their daughter Chelsea's last per-

formance in "The Nutcracker" ballet to babysit their six-month-old nephew Zachary Rodham. Zachary's parents are Tony Rodham, Mrs. Clinton's brother, and Nicole Boxer Rodham, daughter of Senator Barbara Boxer of California. Chelsea, 15, has danced with the Washington School of Ballet in the annual Nutcracker holiday production for several years.

Hank Williams Jr. is among the big stars on the bill at the 20th annual jamboree in the Hills, called "The Super Bowl of Country Music." Also scheduled to perform at the four-day festival in Jacksonville, Fla., are Merle Haggard, the Oak Ridge Boys, Tanya Tucker and Mary Chapin Carpenter.

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Hungary	00-800-0111	Ireland	0-800-550-800
Ireland	0-800-550-800	Italy	0-800-100-10
Italy	0-800-100-10	Japan	00-800-0010
Japan	00-800-0010	Netherlands	00-800-0010
Netherlands	00-800-0010	Norway	00-800-0010
Norway	00-800-0010	Poland	00-800-0010
Poland	00-800-0010	Portugal	00-800-0010
Portugal	00-800-0010	Romania	00-800-0010
Romania	00-800-0010	Russia	00-800-0010
Russia	00-800-0010	Slovakia	00-800-0010
Slovakia	00-800-0010	Spain	00-800-0010
Spain	00-800-0010	Sweden	00-800-0010
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